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CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Bogachev Views U.S. 'Lost Chances' To Limit Arms AA 1
PRAVDA Decries Arms Buildup in Western Europe AA 2
[Mikhaylov, 23 Dec]
Construction of U.S. Warning Radars Stepped Up AA 5
[Solovyev]
First MX Missiles Deployed at Wyoming Airbase AA 6
U.S. Physicians Urge End to Arms Race, Tests AA 6
[PRAVDA 1 Jan]

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

E. European Leaders' New Year Addresses Noted BB 1
[PRAVDA 2 Jan]

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Western Journalists Polled on Superpower Ties CC 1
[Grigoryev in PRAVDA 31 Dec]
Mutual Benefits of Trade With West Noted CC 2
[Mokshin in PRAVDA 26 Dec]

UNITED STATES & CANADA

'Top Priority' Views Relations With U.S., Canada A 1
[Kuznetsov, Bogdanov, Plekhanov]
Carlucci Sworn In as National Security Advisor A 5
U.S. Battleship Scheduled for Modernization A 5

CHINA

PRC Education Official Assesses Student Unrest B 1
[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 1 Jan]
Western Radios, VOA 'Provoking' PRC Students B 1
Trade Exhibition in PRC Evokes 'Great Interest' B 2
[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 30 Dec]

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japanese Parties Assail Increased Military Budget C 1
[Biryukov]
Third Scientific Symposium With Japan Ends C 2
Japanese Defense Chief To Visit PRC in May C 2
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Dec]

Kim Il-song Proposes Korean 'Unification' Summit C 2
MPR's Batmonh Supports Soviet Peace Initiatives C 3
[PRAVDA 1 Jan]

SOUTH ASIA

DRA's Najib Speaks on National Reconciliation D 1
[PRAVDA 5 Jan]
DRA Cease-Fire Annoucement, Najib Speech Viewed D 2
[Meshchaninov in IZVESTIYA 5 Jan]
DRA National Reconciliation Declaration Approved D 4
Western Reaction to Cease-Fire Announcement Hit D 6
[Kudrin]
U.S., Allies Plan To 'Wreck' Afghan Cease-Fire D 6
[Shabayev]
U.S. Continues To Support Afghan 'Terrorists' D 7
[Greshnov, Kuzmin]
Afghan Plane Hit by Rebel Missile, Lands Safely D 8
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Dec]
Kabul Militia Seize Over 30 Kilograms of Heroin D 8

EASTERN EUROPE

Sokolov Greets SFRY's Mamula on Army Jubilee F 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Dec]
Romanian Envoy Presents Award to Gromyko 26 Dec F 1
[Bucharest AGERPRES]
Trade Protocol Signed With Romania 29 Dec F 2
1987 Trade Protocol Signed With Poland F 2
[Warsaw PAP]
GDR Amity Group, GSFG Sign Cooperation Plan F 3
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Dec]
Briefs: Polish Cultural Cooperation F 3

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Envoy to Libya Summoned, Given 'Urgent Message' H 1
[Tripoli JANA]
Yemen Socialist Party Delegation Visits 11-18 Dec H 1
[PRAVDA 19 Dec]
PDRY Envoy Meets With Internal Affairs Minister H 1
[Aden]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS
Officials Said 'Resisting' Openness Campaign R 1
[Tikhomirov]
Ligachev, Talyzin Address Lake Baykal Conference R 2
[IZVESTIYA 28 Dec]
Presidium Decision on Kaluga Oblast Soviets Noted R 3
[PRAVDA 30 Dec]
Further on Biryukova's Tour of Belorussia R 5
[PRAVDA 31 Dec]

RSFSR River Navigation Safety Record Criticized R 6
[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 31 Dec]
Vorotnikov Addresses RSFSR Art Prizewinners 26 Dec R 7
Solovyev Addresses Newsmen on Party Support R 7
[LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Dec]
Uzbek Obkom Appoints Karimov First Secretary R 8
Azerbaijan CP CC Plenum Appoints New Officials R 8
[BAKINSKIY ROBOCHIY 14 Dec]
Reasons for Bureaucratic 'Prohibitions' Explored R 9
[Vasinskiy in IZVESTIYA 27 Dec]
ANSA Cites Sakharov Interview 31 December R 12
Court Sentences Nazi War Criminal to Death R 12
State Committee Signs Cinematographer's Obituary R 13

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Deputy Minister Explains Rail Traffic Holdups S 1
[Butko in PRAVDA 31 Dec]
Minister Interviewed [Mikhaylenko] S 2
State Acceptance Service Implemented 1 Jan S 2
[Amelinyuk]
Current Economic Policy Compared With Lenin's NEP S 3
[Voskresenskiy in MOSCOW NEWS No 48, 30 Nov]
Rovno AES Power Unit Ready for Startup S 9
[Vukovich in IZVESTIYA 21 Dec]
Astrakhan Gas Works Line Made Operational S 9
[Fateyev]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Developments for 25-31 Dec Noted T 1
Saratov Oblast Irrigation Work Criticized T 1

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Ryzhkov Details Space Cooperation Program U 1
'Meteor-2' Meteorological Satellite Launched U 3
TV Station Commissioned in Kirghiz Mountains U 4
[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 23 Dec]
Briefs: Antarctic Sea Operations; New U 4
Microprocessor Developed

BOGACHEV VIEWS U.S. 'LOST CHANCES' TO LIMIT ARMS

LD041849 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS -- Vladimir Bogachev, TASS analyst on military affairs, writes:

Nearly a year has passed since the time the Soviet Union proclaimed an all-embracing and concrete programme for freeing our planet from nuclear weapons even in the current century. About three months ago the historic Soviet-American summit took place, generating hopes in people for real changes for the better in the entire climate of international relations in the world.

The past year of 1986 was not only a time for hopes, meditations, proposals and discussions at official negotiations and unofficial forums on issues of war and peace. It was also a period of possible practical actions by big and small nations in a vitally important sphere for mankind called struggle for peace in the socialist countries and a campaign for arms control in the Western countries.

What have the two great powers (the USSR and the USA) done in this sphere in the past year?

The Soviet Union has been observing for 17 months the unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions declared on August 6, 1985. In the same period the United States staged 24 nuclear weapons explosions at the Nevada proving grounds.

Apart from "freezing" the number of its medium-range missiles in Europe, the USSR cut them numerically by dismantling, for instance, medium-range missile launchers on the Kola Peninsula and a great number of such launchers on the rest of the territory of the Leningrad and Baltic military areas. At the same time the USA increased to 316 the number of its medium-range missiles in Western Europe, continuing their further buildup on the territory of its NATO allies.

Last year the United States equipped with cruise missiles the 131st bomber B-52, brought to combat positions 10 new MX multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles, exceeding thereby limits set by the Soviet-American SALT-2 Treaty. The Soviet which strictly observed all provisions of the 1979 treaty, declared that, taking into account the great human importance of the question and the need for preserving the key limit to the strategic arms race, it would refrain for the time being from exceeding the limits of the SALT-1 agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty.

In the six years of its stay in office the Reagan administration has not taken literally a single practical step which could be regarded, even by people with rich imagination, as a gesture of U.S. goodwill in the field of limitation and reduction of armaments.

Under these circumstances it is amazing that some Western experts seek to protect a concept of equal guilt of the Soviet Union and the United States for lost chances in the past year to decrease the nuclear war danger. Some U.S. pressmen, pretending to be deaf and dumb, claim that in 1986 the Soviet Union has not made either "any specific and actual steps which would fully conform to the interests of disarmament."

U.S. President Reagan likes to say that he has covered an extra mile in questions of arms (?control. However) if he continues marching in the same direction in this sphere, soon there will be no agreements on limiting armaments, and the world will be on the brink of a nuclear disaster.

PRAVDA DECRIES ARMS BUILDUP IN WESTERN EUROPE

PM311319 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 86 First Edition p 4

[V. Mikhaylov article: "These Strange Memory Gaps"]

[Text] When he discovered America, Christopher Columbus could hardly have supposed that centuries later his native Europe would be asking him with reproach: "Why did you do it?" On the other hand, he could not possibly have imagined at that time that at the end of the 20th century placards with his portrait and precisely this question on them would be carried by columns of demonstrators in front of U.S. missile bases between the Rhine and the Moselle and by pickets at U.S. military bases in the British Isles and on the Italian island of Sicily. Nor could he have imagined that the bitterness of this question would be addressed to the rulers of modern-day America, which has shown its gratitude to the discoverer's continent with nuclear "gifts" threatening its very existence. Yes, in Columbus' time man was only just beginning to understand the world, and the future possibility of its destruction was beyond the realms of thought. But if he were to appear in Europe today Columbus would definitely join the ranks of opposition to those who identify progress with increasingly sophisticated arms and are unable to imagine life without the threat of universal annihilation. The prospect of a nuclear-free world would most certainly appeal to him no less than a strip of salvational dry land on the horizon after interminable wanderings at sea filled with danger.

Europe is certainly fascinated by the vision of a future without lethal weapons. This distant dream appeared to take concrete form at the beginning of this year in the Soviet program to free the world of nuclear weapons. In Reykjavik the dream drew even closer and appeared within reach of our generation. Hence, in the space of just 1 year, a powerful leap forward has been achieved in the thinking and in the ideas of East and West on the bounds of what is essential, realistic, and possible.

Why is Europe so sensitive? The continent of one of the most brilliant civilizations is closest of all to catastrophe: It is crammed with more weapons than the other continents. What is this -- the dialectics of development? No. Europe discovered the secret of the split atom and, it seemed, it had at last obtained the eternal Promethean fire capable of warming and providing inexhaustible energy for the eternal motor of progress. But it was stolen. America, "free" of the European experience of devastating wars in its own country, turned the Promethean fire into a Gehenna and threatens to cast its original mother -- Europe -- into it.

Judge for yourselves. More than 7,000 nuclear charges are concentrated in Europe, and more than half of them are in the FRG. Even the present chancellor's predecessor, H. Schmidt, was concerned that the concentration of U.S. nuclear weapons on West German territory was higher than in the United States itself. But more and more new medium-range missiles have been transferred here since then. The Pentagon named them "Pershings" in honor of the general who distinguished himself by his ferocity in a punitive expedition against the Mexican people when they rose to fight for their freedom. Pershing missiles have gained ominous notoriety in Europe -- and not only by virtue of their name. Their deployment was preceded by frank statements by U.S. leaders on the possibility of a limited nuclear war. Three years have passed since these weapons made their appearance, but the Europeans are not reconciled to their presence.

Reykjavik highlighed both the feasibility of disarmament and the absurdity of continuing the arms race. The USSR and U.S. leaders recognized the fact that a world without strategic offensive weapons and a Europe without medium-range missiles would be far safer. What is the point of creating new mountains of weapons? The simple thought -- "What is the point of this extravagant insanity?" -- has crossed the minds of millions of people.

The "external nature" of weapons was dealt a heavy blow in the Icelandic capital. It became clear that the ogre of war, like the fabled Koshchey the Immortal, is actually mortal. Institutes which study public opinion have registered in various Western countries a drop in belief in the myth of a "Soviet threat" and reduced support for the policy of stockpiling arms. In the FRG, for example, where this myth has been cultivated for more than one generation, 6 out of 10 inhabitants "do not feel alarmed" about the USSR's foreign policy intentions. "No one believes any longer that Soviet disarmament proposals are a part of Soviet propaganda," the newspaper KIELER NACHRICHTEN notes. "M.S. Gorbachev's foreign policy actions, such as the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and his decision not to violate the SALT II treaty, have contributed considerably to strengthening belief in the seriousness of Soviet proposals."

One would think this growth in trust would be welcome: It facilitates the achievement of disarmament accords. But this is only the case of these accords are actually desired. Many figures in West European capitals, and particularly in NATO Headquarters, are not standing up to the test of Reykjavik, however. They have been literally seized with fear when faced with peoples' insight. "The main problem facing NATO is to convince people of the existence of the Soviet threat" -- this is a directive from the American General B. Rogers, supreme commander NATO Allied Forces Europe. NATO's supreme organ, its Military Committee, has been instructed to resolve this "main problem." A special session of the committee discussed the situation which has taken shape since Reykjavik and formulated the question as follows: "how to secure broader public support for NATO strategy and compel people to undertand that our own weapons do not pose any threat."

Now would seem to be the right time to restrain members of the NATO General Staff. What is the point of whipping up a new fear of the USSR if you are aiming for accords with it? But the very opposite is happening. Statemen in this military bloc's leading countries, and primarily in Britain and the FRG, have set about implementing a new program to dupe the population of Western Europe. After visits to Washington by Prime Minister M. Thatcher and Federal Chancellor H. Kohl, three basic aspects of the struggle against the accords outlined in Reykjavik have come to light.

First, with regard to strategic offensive weapons only the initial stage -- a 50 percent reduction in the course of 5 years -- has been taken up. The concluding stage, however -- the total elimination of these weapons in the following 5-year period -- has simply been dropped. There is no mention of it either in the Anglo-American communique published after M. Thatcher's trip across the ocean or in the statement made by the FRG chancellor in Washington. This truncated strategic arms program has now been announced at the NATO winter session as the aim of the entire Western military bloc.

Second, the Reykjavik accords are being surrounded by a palisade of far-fetched prior conditions, particularly the "zero option" -- that is, the plan to totally eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, as if they want to incarcerate it forever in a medieval fortress.

Third, if given a free rein NATO would quarter and dismember the package of interconnected proposals placed on the table in the Icelandic capital, which scrupulously take into account the interests of those who participated in the talks, as well as the interests of the entire world community. First of all, attempts are being made to set apart the U.S. "Star Wars" program and place it beyond the bounds of the talks, as if there is any sense in agreeing to eliminate weapons on earth and then opening up the far reaches of space to these very same weapons! The question of scrapping medium-range nuclear missiles is also being pronounced "autonomous" and "independent of agreements in other spheres." But it was on the insistence of the leaders of Western countries, primarily the FRG, that the question of these weapons was considered in Reykjavik not only within the framework of Europe but also in connection with these weapons in Asia and on the American continent, that is, on a global level. And finally, the fourth organic part of the package -- ending all nuclear tests -- has been pushed into the dim and distant future.

Some British and FRG leaders have done a complete turnabout in a matter of several months in their approach to the "zero option" for medium-range missiles. When it was an American proposal it was applauded. But when it became a Soviet-American proposal stones were thrown. Here are just a few examples. G. Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, said in March this year: "An agreement (on medium-range missiles -- V.M.) must envisage a real 'zero for zero' solution. The U.S. proposal meets these criteria." After the Soviet-American meeting in the Icelandic capital, basically the same "zero for zero" was pronounced by the head of the government in London to be "a cause for serious concern."

Bonn is also not against forgetting things it has said in the past, when the chancellor stood up for the unconditional removal of USSR and U.S. missiles as the "only solution possible from a moral standpoint." F.-J. Strauss, head of the Christian Social Union, was even prepared to make a pilgrimage "with a candle in his hands" to Altoetting (a place of worship of the Holy Virgin Mary -- V.M.) if the Soviet Union were to agree to the "zero option." But now this "zero" has become possible, Strauss has said at his party congress that it is "not worth the effort."

What is this -- sclerotic failures of memory? But it is happening to too many people, and at the same time -- so this cannot be the answer. What is more likely is that the original applause was not intended for the "zero option" but for the inventiveness of the U.S. Administration in putting forward such an effective proposal. No one seriously believed in its feasibility at that time. Henry Kissinger, who, as U.S. secretary of state, had himself been involved in the NATO decision to deploy American missiles in Europe, now explains in the pages of THE WASHINGTON POST the real reasons for the appearance of the "zero option." "In the first term of the Reagan Presidency we witnessed heated debates between those who wanted an agreement on limiting the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe -- mainly in the State Department and among the NATO allies -- and those who believed that this plan could not be the subject of negotiation -- mainly in the Defense Department. In order to suppress these disputes the administration put forward the 'zero option.' By a twist of fate, it was first proposed by the Defense Department, which believed the Russians would reject it. In the end this tactical ploy began to take on a life of its own."

If one traces the impediments now being place in the way of realizing the "zero option," which was given a real start in life in Reykjavik, one discovers trends alarming to Europe -- not only the intention to block the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe, but, paradoxically, to develop the arms race in Europe -- yes, that is right -- on the pretext of "preparing" for the moment when the removal of the Pershings and cruise missiles will begin.

The well worn but still living myth of the Warsaw Pact countries' "gigantic superiority" in conventional weapons has been hurriedly revived and a new myth has been introduced -- the "Soviets' multiple superiority" in short-range nuclear systems. The following construction is being put on these two myths: Since the East is vastly "superior" in conventional and operational-tactical nuclear weapons, the withdrawal of U.S. medium-range missiles will make this superiority even more of a threat and will "increase the danger of war." From this premise, based on falsified data, the following conclusion is being drawn: Either the USSR will unilaterally reduce its forces, or...the West "will be forced" to begin "upgrading its arms."

The strategy of whipping up fear of the East's imaginary vast superiority has already been used more than once to psychologically prepare the Western population for a new quantum leap in arms. With the aid of this strategy Britain and France can justify their current programs to build up their own nuclear arms. The newspaper WELT AM SONNTAG reports that in the FRG the Bundeswehr's plans for 1987 envisage a sharp increase in the number of short-range missiles -- a new generation. Under the heading "Nuclear Participation," the Defense Ministry plan documents its wish for the future as follows: The development of an "economical nuclear option" for the Bundeswehr is essential.

These plans are encountering opposition not only among opposition parties in the FRG, Britain, and France. There is not even unity among the ruling circles. Even the military-industrial complex is not omnipotent in these countries. The shaping of policy is influenced by the reasonable fear that as a result of departing from the Reykjavik accords Western Europe will become even more involved in the United States' military preparations. This will undermine the economic and scientific and technical foundations of its independence.

The Europeans will not reconcile themselves to the role of waiting upon the American Pershings threatening their continent with devastation. It was also the unhappy lot of earlier European generations to suffer the role of Columbuses charting the course of our ship "Earth" away from the shores of the past with its endless military catastrophes toward new shores, toward a life free of the fear of universal destruction.

CONSTRUCTION OF U.S. WARNING RADARS STEPPED UP

OW030609 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0400 GMT 30 Dec 86

[From the "Novosti" newscast; Vsevolod Solovyev commentary]

[Text] As THE NEW YORK TIMES reports, the United States is speeding up implementation of plans to construct two large radars in Greenland and Great Britain. Our commentary follows:

[Solovyev] Hello, comrades. Installation of the new, superpowerful early warning radars will be the most gross violation of the Soviet-American treaty on antimissile defense, the 1972 ABM Treaty. According to Article 6 of the treaty, the Soviet Union and the United States are obliged not to deploy radar warning stations anywhere in the future except along the peripheries of their national territories. Article 9 forbids their turnover to other states and deployment of ABM systems and their components outside one's own national territory.

Now, following the Reagan administration's trampoling of the SALT II treaty, thereby clearing the path for what the West German magazine STERN figuratively called an unbridled revelry in madness, Washington is also ready to drop the sword on the ABM treaty, which is a cornerstone of the whole legal and contractual system of strategic arms limitation. For a long time now, Washington has even stopped recalling the Principles of Mutual Relations between the USSR and the United States signed in 1972 at the highest level, a document which says that in the nuclear age, there is no other basis for maintaining relations between our countries than peaceful coexistence. Forgotten also are the obligations to widen the legal and contractual basis of Soviet American mutual relations relations and to make the necessary efforts to steadily implement the concluded bilateral agreements. Today, Washington lays store in only one thing, the cult of strength. The White House strives to secure military advantages for itself. This is exactly what the construction of the new radars in Greenland and Great Britain is aimed at. In so doing, the White House does not want to understand that to shoot first in the nuclear age means nothing more than to die second.

FIRST MX MISSILES DEPLOYED AT WYOMING AIRBASE

LD031156 Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] New York January 3 TASS -- The U.S. Strategic Air Command on January 2 officially received and took control over the first batch of ten intercontinental MX ballistic missiles, which were deployed at the U.S. Warren Air Base in Wyoming. A total of 50 MX missiles, each capable of carrying 10 powerful nuclear warheads, are to be installed in special siloes at military bases in Wyoming, Nebraaka and Colorado, by decision of the Reagan administration and in line with the U.S. nuclear potential modernisation programme, by the year 1988. Late last year the Reagan administration already announced that it intended to request congressional approval for the deployment of 50 MX missiles on special railway platforms to make them mobile.

U.S. PHYSICIANS URGE END TO ARMS RACE, TESTS

PM021259 Mosco PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Good Deeds Are Better Than Words"]

[Text] A high assessment of the unilateral Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions has been made by the prominent U.S. scientist and public figure Bernard Lown, who is cochairman of the movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. "The International Physicians movement has always believed that good deeds are better than fine words," he stated in a conversation with a TASS correspondent. "Therefore we welcomed the introduction of the moratorium on nuclear explosions as a historic initiative by the Soviet Union. The fact that the United States is continuing its nuclear tests does not nullify the significance of the USSR's policy. It has given a powerful boost to the peace movement and has increased trust in your country still further. It has helped honest people to become aware of just what is happening in reality."

It is essential in the coming year 1987 to galvanize the struggle for an end to the nuclear arms race and the diminution of the threat of nuclear war. Such an appeal has been made by the influential U.S. organization "Physicians for Social Responsibility". The Organization's appeal circulated here emphasizes the need to intensify actions with a view to "halting tests of nuclear weapons and putting an end to the 'Star Wars' program," which -- despite White House claims -- "will not stop the nuclear arms race." The Reagan administration, the document says, must be made to realize that the American people demand from it more than artful playing to the gallery.

E. EUROPEAN LEADERS' NEW YEAR ADDRESSES NOTED

PM041921 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "A Year of Great Deeds. Addresses by Socialist Countries' Leaders"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Warsaw -- The year passed in conditions of peace and tranquility and it strengthened Poland's position in the community of allies and throughout Europe and the world, W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish State Council, said in a televized New Year address to the Polish people. The country has made economic progress. Everything points to the fact that the central annual plan will be overfulfilled in the majority of fields, particularly in the industrial production sphere. A record harvest has been gathered. Although we still have a great many difficulties, more and more facts show us that we are now moving in the right direction. The 10th PZPR Congress enriched and confirmed our policy of socialist renewal. We must quicken our pace. Full use of the scientific and technical revolution's achievements, and well-organized, productive work is a realistic, sensible means of ensuring that life will be really better, far better in Poland.

Never before has man expended so many fruits of his labor on military aims. Nuclear explosions are still maiming and tearing apart the bowels of the earth and the feverish arms race is reaching the stars. We are not alone at this dangerous time, the Polish leader stressed. We have reliable friends. We fully support the Soviet Union's bold, peace-loving proposals which offer mankind a tremendous historic chance. [passage omitted]

Belgrade -- The past year has been distinguished by the Yugoslav working people's great contribution to resolving socioeconomic problems. Thanks to this, we have managed to increase industrial production growth and achieve new success in agricultural development, the SFRY Presidium New Year address notes. The 13th LCY Congress united the ranks of Yugoslav Communists and contributed to stepping up the struggle for the further development of socialist society and to strengthening the unity of the Yugoslav peoples. The past year has been characterized by vigorous SFRY activity in the international arena. Its consistent foreign policy aimed at establishing lasting peace on earth, security, and equitable economic and political redlations betwee countries and peoples has contributed to strengthening the country's international prestige. Next year must be distinguished by labor collectives' and social organizations' active participation in the struggle to implement the long-term program for economic stabilization and to improve the political system, the New Year address emphasizes.

Bucharest -- In a New Year message to the Romanian people that has been broadcast on radio and television, N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and Romanian president, noted the working people's achievements during the past year, stressing that the country has everything necessary at its disposal to fulfill the tasks and provisions of the plan for Romania's economic and social development in 1987. The main concern must be to develop cooperation between Romania and other socialist countries on the basis of the Comprehensive Program for the CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Up to the Year 2000.

Romania, he pointed out, welcomes and supports the program put forward by the Soviet Union that is aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons by the end of 2000. Proceeding from the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik, agreements must be reached as soon as possible which would open up the way to eliminating nuclear weapons and substantially reducing conventional weapons. Romania will continue to strengthen its cooperation with socialist states and with all peoples and countries for the sake of asserting the policy of disarmament, cooperation, and international security, and of a world without weapons and wars.

WESTERN JOURNALISTS POLLED ON SUPERPOWER TIES

PM021350 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 December 1986 First Edition carries on page 4 under the headline "What People in the West Think" a 2,900-word feature comprising PRAVDA correspondent interviews with seven "prominent bourgeois commentators and publicists": Strobe Talbott, TIME magazine's diplomatic correspondent; Paul Warnke, former leader of the U.S. delegation at the Soviet-U.S. SALT II talks; Shezo Komoto, deputy chief of TOKYO SHIMBUN's foreign department; Yasuo Suzuki, deputy chief of YOMIURI's international department; Jonathan Steele, THE GUARDIAN's diplomatic commentator; Heiner Bremer, chief editor of the Hamburg weekly STERN; and Claudio Farcassi, chief editor of PAESE SERA. The reply to these two questions: "Whose foreign policy activity -- the USSR's or the United States' -- has been more in keeping with the aims and tasks of Peace Year?" And "What would you like from the two powers next year?" The interviews are followed by this commentary by Yevgeniy Grigoryev:

"We have before us seven interviews from five of the major Western countries. First of all, I wish to thank their authors for participating in PRAVDA's New Year's questionnaire. In my view, the replies make interesting reading. They are quite representative as a kind of cross section of the opinions and sentiments, as well as the omissions and assertions, that are encountered today in the West's 'big press.' Along with elements of the new political thinking, the influence of the old is also noticeable in them. For all this, I believe the published statements contain common denominator. This is concern at the situation in the world and awareness of the need to end the arms race.

"On comparing the replies, the reader will easily detect a substantial discrepancy in the assessment of the outgoing year, the events, and the problems. The majority acknowledge the significance and weight of the efforts the Soviet Union has made to improve the international situation and turn toward disarmament. For all mankind knows of M.S. Gorbachev's statement of 15 January 1986, which formulated the program for eliminating nuclear weapons on the planet. It was the basis of the USSR's innovatiave proposals in Reykjavik, which made the prospect of a nuclear-free world world really tangible. The silence on the Soviet nuclear test sites has been not only a hymn to Peace Year but also a concrete action in the interests of nuclear disarmament.

"It is hard to say why certain replies ignore this, as well as Moscow's many other practical steps in the spirit of the ideas and aims of Peace Year. But this is what is curious. Certain authors rebuke the USSR and the United States equally for the lack of fundamental progress in the matter of disarmament. This is 'usual' and 'the done thing.' However, even they recognize directly or indirectly the great significance of Reykjavik and urge people to push off from its results and go further. But those results, like the meeting in the Icelandic capital itself, were a consequence of the initiative and the proposals of precisely the Soviet Union. That is a universally recognized fact.

"As though to 'balance' the too glaring U.S. 'omissions,' the people who answered the PRAVDA questionaire and their colleagues in Western capitals allude to Afghanistan. This is more than dubious allusion, for it is precisely Washington that has preferred the dangerous chimera of SDI and blocked a shift toward the cardinal reduction and elimination of nuclear arms. The continuation of the undeclared war against the DRA is also primarily an American 'service.' In connection with that regional problem, too, the Soviet Union has exerted and is exerting persistent efforts and goodwill for the speediest political settlement of the situation aroung Afghanistan. Here words are not at variance with deeds. I would mention, for example, the return home of six regiments."

"The contradictory judgments have evidently been caused by the complexity of the situation and the juxtaposition of hopes and disappointments associated with Reykjavik, or by a lack of information. We are urged, for example, to be ready for talks on short-range missiles, although precisely the Soviet side had already enshrined that in one of the Reykjavik accords. There is a similar appeal with regard to conventional arms in Europe, as though there had not been the corresponding Budapest appeal of the Warsaw Pact states, to which precisely the NATO countries have still not made a businesslike response.

"The thoughts of J. Steele and H. Bremer clearly reveal a desire to 'eviscerate' the Reykjavik package of USSR proposals and break it up into separate parts. Look, they say, there is no connection between medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe and strategic weapons. But, with regard to us, U.S. medium-range missiles are strategic weapons, since they can reach our territory. There is also an obvious connection between medium-range missiles and SDI. On a military-technical plane there is the so-called Euro-SDI, but above all there is the participation of a number of West European NATO countries in implementing the 'Star Wars' program. On the political plane SDI is the concentrated expression of a reluctance to remove the nuclear threat hanging over mankind. For it is clear even to a number of the questionnaire participants that, by extending the arms race into space, SDI blocks the entire nuclear disarmament process.

"This and this alone is the snag today, not the Soviet package. Everything in it is precisely balanced: both the concessions and the specific steps toward nuclear disarmament. Some people in the West would like to take from it the concessions alone. Of course, none of us will agree to that, because it would violate the principles of equality and mutual security.

"Certain ideas expressed in the replies are not quite intelligible. While quite rightly pointing out that the ABM Treaty specifically prohibits the testing and development [razrabotka] of space-based systems and their components, P. Warnke proposes that the sides exchange their plans in the sphere of such tests. But if this is prohibited, why have test plans? Would it not be better simply not to make plans and to observe the ABM Treaty?

"As can be seen from the interviews, masses of complex problems also await the world in 1987. There are differing opinions as to how to reveal them. But it follows from all the published statements that no time must be lost in solving these problems. In this sense the questionnaire participants obviously reflect the strengthening realistic sentiments in their countries and in the West in general.

"The future belongs to the idea of a nuclear-free world and to actions leading to this great goal and dream of concerned mankind."

MUTUAL BENEFITS OF TRADE WITH WEST NOTED

PM291859 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 86 First Edition p 3

[Article by Doctor of Historical Sciences S. Mokshin under the rubric "27th CPSU Congress: Strategy of Acceleration": "Scientific Exchanges -- A Direct Path to Mutual Understanding"]

[Excerpts] Lenin and the party always linked the real implementation of the plan for building a new society with the need to combine the gains of the socialist revolution with the development of science. [passage omitted]

Under present-day conditions, the growing role of the scientific and technical factor in the international division of labor has become an indisputable fact exerting an enormous influence on all processes occurring in the world and on its contradictions. Under socialism the progress of science and technology results directly in the renewal of forms of management, the socialization of production, and its intensification, while under capitalism it is extremely contradictory: Even the growing transnational interweaving of capital fails to diminish the technological rivalry between economically developed countries (the United States and West European states, the United States and Japan, and so on) which strive to monopolize the scientific and technical achievements and prevent their leakage to liberated countries and espcially to the socialist countries.

Since the early eighties the imperialist states, and primarily the United States, have striven to use the "technology weapon" against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. Conservative ideologists persistently depict the Soviet Union as a "colossus with feet of clay" which cannot be considered an economic rival of the United States.

The two-volume report "Politics in the Sphere of Science, USA, USSR," published by the U.S. National Scientific Foundation for members of Congress, is indicative in this respect. Summarizing the contents of Volume 2, dealing with the development of science and technology in the Soviet Union, U. Lepkovskiy, observer of the journal of CHEMICALS AND ENGINEERING, noted that its authors strive to avoid "the standard American custom of underestimating the possibilities inherent in Soviet technological potential." Indeed while the previous report (1977) kept virtually silent about the successes of Soviet science and technology, credit is now given willy-nilly to the fact that the Soviet Union was "the first country in the world to elaborate a specific national policy in the sphere of science," proving that it is possible "to plan and guide its development." But having made such an important admission the authors, as if frightened, immediately attempted to disclaim it by means of fabrications to the effect that, even though the USSR may have risen to the status of the second-mightiest power in the world, its "technological base is chronically lagging behind technological standards in the West." If this is so, what is the point in talking about scientific collaboration and engaging in exchanges of scientific discoveries and assets?

In actual fact, the fabrications by the ideologists of imperialism as regards the Soviet Union's "technological lag" behind the West serve only the objectives of transnational monopolies and the U.S. military-industrial complex in waging "economic warfare" against the USSR. This has materialized specifically in the so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI), which is in fact the "Star Wars" program.

In its continuous pressure on socialism, imperialism uses the "technological level" as a means of pressuring our country's foreign and domestic policy. The center of gravity of embargoes and other types of boycott of scientific exchange is increasingly shifting from bans on equipment deliveries to bans on the transfer of technical knowledge -- which offers convincing proof of the U.S. desire to establish "technological hegemony." The ultimate goal of such a policy is to isolate the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries from the world market in modern technology, slow down their economic development, and disrupt the military-strategic parity.

Meanwhile, it is well known that the United States has no monopoly on scientific and technical achievements. Even its own political, public, and scientific figures declare that "the country's indisputable leadership in the technology sphere was lost a long time ago, therefore the widespread bans on the export of commodities and technology are simply useless" and "fraught with a whole range of serious problems for the United States itself."

This is pointed out by, for example, University of Pennsylvania Professor Thomas (Korpan) in the book "A Challenge to American Values." But, he notes, leaders in Washington have failed to correctly evaluate the developments and continue to believe in America's "technological superiority." This opinion is also shared by the American Committee on East-West Accord. Addressing one of its meetings, G. Kennan, former U.S. ambassador to the USSR, who has held senior positions in the State Department, advocated scientific and technical cooperation between the United States and the USSR. Criticizing all sorts of speculations as to whether the Soviet Union could be trusted when concluding agreements in the sphere of scientific exchanges, he said in particular: "I am amazed whenever I hear such thoughts, because we have 6 decades of experience giving a clear answer, and this answer is yes, one can conclude agreements with the Soviet side, and they will honor them!" D. Kendall, chairman of the "Pepsico" Corporation Board of Directors, declared at one board meeting that the expansion of USSR-U.S. cooperation in the sphere of trade and scientific exchanges "accords with U.S. vital interests" and that the United States "has gained nothing" from its sanctions against the Soviet Union: "The expansion of trade is the obvious way to build bridges of mutual understanding."

At the meeting of members of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council held in the United States, representatives of business circles confirmed their desire to organize cooperation with their Soviet partners.

The CPSU resolutely rejects the policy of boycotts and embargoes in the sphere of scientific exchange. "The story that the USSR's defense potential is almost completely based on purchases of Western technology and cannot develop without it is absolute nonsense," M.S. Gorbachev has noted. "The authors of this story simply forget with which country they are dealing, they forget -- or want to make others forget -- that the Soviet Union is a country with great science and advanced technology....Of course, like any other country, we rely -- in civilian and ir military production -- both on our own and on the world's achievements in science and technology, on the world's production experience. That is life; it is inevitable...."

The Soviet Union has created a mighty scientific potential and has achieved outstanding results in a number of leading branches of science. Soviet scientists were the first to elaborate the theoretical elements of missile technology, and have made a decisive contribution to the discovery of transuranium elements, the elaboration of the theory of chain reactions, the discovery of lasers, modern aerodynamics, and so on. In many respects, the Soviet Union occupies leading positions in the world. If forced, as has already happened on several occasions, it will give an effective and fast response to the program for securing "technological superiority" via the implementation of the Reagan doctrine of the so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative."

Scientific exchange between countries with different social systems can be fully ensured provided the political obstacles to equal and large-scale ties on the basis of mutual advantage are eliminated. This will be of good service to the humanitarian objectives of strengthening confidence, mutual understanding, and spiritual enrichment among peoples, the consolidation of peace and good-neighborliness, and human progress.

'TOP PRIORITY' VIEWS RELATIONS WITH U.S., CANADA

LD031839 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 3 Jan 87

["Top Priority" program presented by Pavel Kuznetsov, with Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences]

[Excerpt] [Kuznetsov] This is our first program in 1987, a special year for us, because in November we're going to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the socialist revolution in Russia. It's quite an occasion for us, a people of some 280 million, to take a serious look back at both our achievements and mistakes -- and I say mistakes because as the trailblazers we were the only socialist country, and while rebuilding our society on entirely new economic and social principles we had nobody to turn to for advice. As far as Soviet-American relations are concerned, we all knew that it took the United States 16 years to recognize us -- the recognition was granted in 1933 -- and several years later we found ourselves, we became partners in the glorious anti-Hitler coalition, together with Canada, France, Great Britain and some other countries. But unfortunately right after the war we again (?found) ourselves, but this time on the different sides of the barricade [sentence as heard]. My question to you: Was it a zigzag of history or just because we had a common foe? Now, in the absence of a common foe, are we going to be permanently on the different sides of the barricade? Are there the ways to dismantle this barricade or at least to lower it down so that we could do some things together?

[Bogdanov] Yes, that's a very good question which gives a lot of food for reflection, you know, because in your question there is a very deep, you know, sense; because my problem is, and still my problem is: The Soviet-American relations, are they doomed to failure because they are so different -- they are living in different societies; they have different goals and values -- or [do] the Soviet-American relations have some objective, you know, objective roots, some objective base, if you like, for not only reconciliation -- I wouldn't like that word -- but something like decent, normal civilized relations? And when I look back as a professor of history, you know, of international relations...

[Kuznetsov, interrupting] You (?are of) mathematics as you are sometimes described [words indistinct].

[Bogdanov] Yes, but I'm still historian, you know, by training and by profession. When I look back at that glorious time, and I emphasize, glorious time of our alliance with the USA, United Kingdom, France, and the allies, the first thought which comes to my mind is: Is it really possible, or it was really possible; maybe it's a kind of a dream? When you come, you know, to the realities of today, some younger generation people may think: No, it's just a dream, it's just a fairy tale. No, it's not a dream, it is not a fairy tale; it's the truth. It's a very noble truth. We were allies. We were fighting the common enemy. And then from that I come to your question: When you have a common goal, when you have a common interest, you forget about your ideological differences, you forget about your different values, ideas, and things like that, because facing the common enemy means that you have all what you cherish under danger, and you have to defend it...

[Kuznetsov, interrupting] In other words, what is this common enemy now?

[Bogdanov] Yes, and I, I just mean to, I mean that, that nowadays -- note when I say nowadays I mean a longer historical period -- we have a common enemy, maybe a more dangerous and more ominous than we ever came across in the history of our relations. Who is this enemy; what is this danger? It's a nuclear war, the danger of nuclear war. And what, what really worries me, is not the theory, or it's not the theoretical, you know, reflections or ideas, we are moving unfortunately to that brink, to that brink and the, the upper, you know, super task, if you like, is just to stop that moving to the brink. And there is only one way out -- common efforts, common efforts of USSR and USA, to stop first of all arms race, bringing us closer and closer to the nuclear brink, and to cooperate. Do you agree with me, Sergey?

[Plekhanov] Yes, I do agree with that, but I would like to touch upon another side of the problem. People sometimes say: Okay, there is a common danger -- nuclear war and other global problems which are overpowering. But what about the differences? If the differences are so great, then maybe after we've done away with nuclear danger then we will be back to fighting each other ideologically, politically, and even maybe militarily.

So I would like to address the differences, and I think there are two ways of looking at differences. One is to look on them in the light of some kind of ideological or even religious crusade. Some people in the West say: Well, you know, you can't deal with communists; there can't be real peace until you have eliminated communism, wiped it off the surface of the earth. And I can imagine people from the other side saying the same thing, although I don't hear that argument on our side -- that, namely that, well, you know, they're capitalists, you can't deal with them, you can't live with them peacefully, they are so aggressive and so on.

Ah, history knows crusades and knows what sacrifices humanity had to pay for such crusades. The current situation is such that the ideological differences and the political differences that exist objectively between the socialist states and capitalist states can and should be viewed as differences in approaches to solving common problems, because people are people everywhere, and their problems and their needs are the same, no matter under what system people live, and basically as we communists view this competition...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] You know, I'm sorry, Sergey, you know it comes to my mind just now such an example. You have your neighbor, you know. Every morning he eats a chocolate cake, every morning, and you hate him eating chocolate cake every morning. And you think until I kill him, this guy, I won't be happy. So it's the same, don't you think so?

[Plekhanov] No, but I think that there is that age-old tradition of viewing differences as reasons for hostility and reasons for war. But we must view differences in a constructive manner. I think both sides should learn something from each other and concentrate their minds on what unites them, on what is common among them, and think more about the real needs and interests of common people, of citizens. They're not interested in a nuclear war; they're not interested in the nuclear arms race or any kind of arms race, they're interested in increasing contacts between each other, in improving their living standards and so on.

[Kuznetsov] I recall that in our final program last year we said something about making predictions, certain predictions for this year in Soviet-American relations. You know that our country has turned down an exchange of New Year's greetings between the leaders of our two countries; and as a Foreign Ministry spokesman said at the end of the year, such an exchange would create illusions about the current state of Soviet-American relations, which he described as being rather poor and unsatisfactory.

So where do we go from here, as I'm about to ask you about your predictions for this year?

[Bogdanov] You know, Pavel, to be frank with you, when I came to know about that news I was a little bit reluctant, you know, whether we were right or not, turning down this American offer, you know. But now I come to the conclusion that maybe we were right, because now what's going on in USA. These people sitting in the chairs of powers in Washington, they're trying to create an impression among their citizens, among their allies, that there's another fine stage in the Soviet-American relations, that nothing's happened, that after Reykjavik things are moving smoothly. And there is not a bit of truth in that; and maybe that was the real, you know, the real and very efficient step to signal to everybody that there is something wrong in the Soviet-American relations. And we have all the reasons to, you know, blame the American side for that, you know, another downgrading the level, you know, of the Soviet-American relations after Reykjavik. So now I believe, you know, it was a very, very right step, though as I told you I had my own doubts about it. Now, I'm sorry, now we -- about predictions, you know -- I hate to predict because I am.... [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Kuznetsov] Yes, my question, my next question was supposed to be: Can we see a more visible role for the United States Congress -- the new Congress, the 100th, actually, Congress -- in running foreign policy...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] You know, Sergey has been in that business for a number of years than I am, and I would like him to comment on the Congress role; he knows that much better than I do. But, you know, I believe that is American domestic business, Congress. Congress, American. [as heard] But, you know, I hate to predict, because I'm almost afraid to be fired if you have made wrong prediction. But we should not forget, you know, we should not forget that the common danger is there, and unfortunately it is growing; it is not diminishing, it's growing.

[Kuznetsov] So, Sergey, a few words about what we can expect or perhaps not expect from the new Congress.

[Plekhanov] Well, I would agree with Dr Bogdanov that this is a domestic affair, and commenting on relations between the Presidency and the U.S. Congress may not be an appropriate thing to do; but I think you've asked a very good question, because what the problem boils down to as far as we're concerned is: Is there anybody on the other side who is prepared to listen to what we're offering? Is there anybody on the other side who is prepared to think in a new way, as we are urging them to do, because, you know...

[Kuznetsov, interrupting] (?Do you mean) violation of SALT II treaty, refusal to join the (?moratorium)?

[Plekhanov] Not only that. You know, on our side there has been a very dynamic evolution of our approach to the whole fabric of foreign policy, and a key element of that has been very persistent attempt, very persistent attempts, efforts to find areas of agreement with the United States. To find mutually acceptable compromises. We've made concessions, we've made very far-reaching proposals. We've been very frustrating [as heard]; we were not provoked. We've done all and even more than we could do. Nobody expected, most people didn't expect from us to do things that we did. And yet there is virtually no practical response on the other side. There has been some maneuvering, there's been some rhetoric, but in practical terms the American -- the further we, the closer we move to the American position, the further away.

[Kuznetsov, interrupting] [Word indistinct] away from us?

[Plekhanov] Yes, it moved away from, from, from the terms of compromise, and that (?was) very frustrating; and I'm just wondering whether there is somebody in Washington, some serious people in the establishment, who are prepared to, to say, well, you know, at some point: Wait a minute, what's going on? When are we going to stop throwing stones and start gathering them?

[Kuznetsov] You're quoting from the Bible?

[Plekhanov] Well, yes, that's.... [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Kuznetsov] Okay. The reason why I asked about the 100th Congress, now under the control of the Democratic Party, is that, in my view, "Irangate" will continue, and I'm afraid that the hands of the legislators may be, might be tied down with that affair, so that the chances for reaching a meaningful accord with the Soviet Union might be rather slim, and that was one of the reasons I asked you about the role...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] You know, Pavel, that's the reality of American political life. America was always more busy with its own business than -- I mean, with their domestic, you know, problems -- with some other guy's business; and in that I mean disarmament, you know, and arms control. That's very unfortunate side of American political life, but you have to face it because it's the reality.

[Kuznetsov] I've brought some letters from our listeners with me to the studio, and I would like to quote from one of them sent in from Mr Vince Waterfield, who makes his home in Halifax, Canada, and I quote: If the panel members on "Top Priority" are from USA and Canada Studies Institute, then why do they only discuss the USA? There are probably many Canadian listeners who are wondering why we are never mentioned. Perhaps you should change the name from North American Service to the Service for the United States. What would you say to that?

[Bogdanov] Well, I would. I agree with our listener.

[Plekhanov] Yes, that's, that's a well deserved barb, I would say.

[Bogdanov] Yes, and I feel a little bit even ashamed that he pointed out to us very rightly that we, we miss his, his very lovely, really great country from our .... [incomplete sentence as heard] But I don't know how to solve this problem; do you, Pavel? You are the bosses here, not we; we are invited here.

[Kuznetsov] I'm still -- so far I'm the boss -- I'm running this North American service, and I think that much of the blame rests on me; but, well, I'd like to assure listeners in Canada that their country was not totally absent from our programs. We have many examples when Canada featured in them rather prominently; but what about Canada and its role in international relations, Sergey? Perhaps you can give us a couple of examples of what Canada did in such areas as SDI, or some other related problems.

[Bogdanov] You have visited this country?

[Plekhanov] Yes, I visited Canada I think three times, and I'm very much impressed with that country. I think it's a beautiful country with very friendly and hard-working people, and I always enjoy visiting Canada. As far as Canada's role in foreign relations is concerned, I think that there has been, there's been quite an active debate inside Canada, in Canadian public opinion among the political circles in Canada concerning its relations with the United States. That's a touchy question. Canada is, of course, an ally of the United States. On the other hand, when the United States asks them to do things which clearly create serious problems for the Canadians, and asks them to take steps the wisdom of which is at least questionable, then there are....[incomplete sentence as heard]

[Kuznetsov] What do you mean? Do you mean this refusal, Canadian refusal to take part in SDI, when Mr. Mulroney said that Canada won't be calling the shots and therefore there is no role for Canada in this program? And then at the same time, you remember they allowed the United States to test long-range cruise missiles.

[Plekhanov] That's right. They tried, they tried to, to be on both sides of the fence, because there's clearly a great concern among the Canadians, among the masses of Canadians, that Canada may be supporting policies which are very, very detrimental to Canadian security, like testing cruise missiles. There's been a lot of discussions about that. [passage omitted]

CARLUCCI SWORN IN AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

LD030804 Moscow TASS in English 0746 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Washington January 3 TASS -- Frank Carlucci has been sworn in and took up office as new assistant to the President for national security affairs. The former deputy CIA director and deputy secretary of defence has succeeded in that office John Poindexter, who has been sacked as a result of the row around the U.S. undercover arms dhipments to Iran and the funnelling of a part of the funds to the Nicaraguan contras. John Poindexter was directly in charge of the operations which resulted in "Irangate". He and Oliver North, who was a member of the staff of the National Security Council and also had to retire from his office have been assigned since the outbreak of the row the role of scapegoats in order to provide cover for the administration and President Reagan himself. Both John Poindexter and Oliver North have refused until now to give testimony in the course of the investigation into "Irangate".

U.S. BATTLESHIP SCHEDULED FOR MODERNIZATION

LD031151 Moscow TASS in English 1057 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] New York January 3 TASS -- The American battleship Wisconsin was tugged down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico today. The battleship, discarded from the U.S. Navy in 1958, is being modernized under the Reagan administration's vast programme of building up the combat might of the U.S. Navy.

Washington earmarked 35 million dollars for the purpose. Nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missiles are being installed aboard the battleship, as well as anti-air Harpoon missiles, up-to-date electronic systems of thuding 16-inch long-range guns, newest anti-air and anti-submarine systems of armaments. The modernization is to be completed at the Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

PRC EDUCATION OFFICIAL ASSESSES STUDENT UNREST

PM021641 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Jan 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Press Conference in Beijing"]

[Text] At a press conference held here for foreign and Chinese journalists, He Dongchang, vice chairman of the PRC State Committee for Education, confirmed that in a number of China's cities recently -- Shanghai, Wuhan, Hefei, Nanjing, and Hangzhou -- a small number of students, chiefly first- and second-year university students, had organized street demonstrations. The total number involved was not more than 2 percent of university students, who number 2 million in China.

In our opinion, he noted next, the majority of the participants in the demonstrations are patriotically minded young people who have declared their readiness to aid the acceleration of the process of broadening democracy in the PRC. A number of students advocated the restructuring of China along "Western lines." But without the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, without an atmosphere of cohesion and stability, chaos may arise and we will achieve nothing. The Chinese people, who suffered greatly during the "Cultural Revolution," will not allow a repetition of the chaos of those years. Our position as regards the students who took part in the demonstrations is that of applying educative measures. It is true that some individuals who attached themselves to the demonstrations attempted to exploit them for their own ends by perpetrating unlawful, unconstituional acts. They will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

He Dongchang noted that the Chinese Government is studying the question of reform of the poltical structure. But a long period of time will be required for the creation of a high degree of democracy in China, which is explained by economic, social, and other factors and by our lack of experience in this area.

The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO published today a statement by a spokesman for the Beijing Municipal People's Government which contains an appeal to the city's population "to heighten vigilance in order to frustrate attempts by subversive elements to incite disorder." The newspaper writes: "If a handful of hostile elements dares to incite disorder in the capital, severe penal measures will be taken against them." This spokesman drew particular attention to the latest broadcasts by foreign radio stations containing an account of inflammatory calls for a demonstration to be mounted on the city's central square, Tiananmen. Making a political evaluation of the activity of "diverse elements hostile to the PRC's socialist system," he pointed out that their actions "are of a systematic nature, including the dissemination of stupid rumors, deception of the masses, and the desire to broaden the scale of the events to that of the city of Beijing and to China as a whole." These criminal intentions will be frustrated, he emphasized.

WESTERN RADIOS, VOA 'PROVOKING' PRC STUDENTS

LD021339 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Beijing January 2 TASS -- Western radio services, especially the Voice of America, in their broadcasts have been provoking Chinese students into staging further demonstrations.

The VOA instigatory programs have caused particular resentment in China. [paragraph continues]

XINHUA news agency in this connection quoted a Chinese national as expressing anger at another VOA subversive broadcast, which has urged Chinese students not to be "discouraged" and said that Chinese student demonstrations "have been a comfort to dissidents all over the world."

XINHUA asked what the VOA's goals were when it broadcast such programs.

TRADE EXHIBITION IN PRC EVOKES 'GREAT INTEREST'

PM311149 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "China: Soviet Exhibition Ends"]

[Text] Beijing, 29 Dec -- The Soviet trade and industry exhibition here has ended. The great practical interest in the exhibition is shown by the fact that it was visited by more than 250,000 people.

It was the biggest Soviet exhibition in China for more than 30 years. There were more than 3,000 exhibits on display, including metal-cutting machine tools, automobiles, power engineering equipment, and models of modern Soviet aircraft, various kinds of ships, and space equipment.

Numerous seminars and conversations with specialists from various Chinese organizations and companies were held during the exhibition. A number of contracts were signed, notably for the supply of equipment and drawings for a blast furnace at the Wuhan metallurgy combine. Representatives of Chinese provinces showed great interest in Soviet agricultural and road building equipment and small trucks.

The exhibition was visited by PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang, PRC State Council Deputy Premiers Li Peng and Yao Yilin, and leaders of a number of Chinese ministries and departments. "I am certain," the PRC State Council premier said on viewing the exhibition, "that the exhibition, just like the Chinese trade and economics exhibition being held in Moscow, will contribute to the strengthening of friendship between the peoples of our two countries and the development of economic and trade ties between the USSR and the PRC. We are satisfied that our bilateral ties in the spere of economics, trade, science, culture, sports, and other spheres have recently undergone relatively rapid development."

XINHUA in a commentary on the results of the exhibition noted that special interest in the exhibition was generated by the fact that it was held at a time of rapid development of trade and economic ties between the two countries.

JAPANESE PARTIES ASSAIL INCREASED MILITARY BUDGET

LD302023 Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 30 Dec 86

["Dangerous Decision" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- TASS political analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

The Nakasone government approved today the draft state budget for the fiscal year 1987 where military expenditures top 3,500 billion yen. This is more than one per cent of the GNP planned for the next fiscal year. Therefore, the government has broken the limit observed by all the Japanese cabinets since 1976 when it was established for the first time as the main principle of the Japanese defence policy of the Miki government.

The government's decision to abandon the practice of containing military expenditures was taken, irrespective of the will and wishes of the Japanese public at large and practically of all opposition parties. It also ignores substantiated objections against increased military appropriations expressed by some members of the ruling party, for instance by its well-known functionaries Takeo Fukuda, Zenko Suzuki and Toshio Komoto. Opponents of the decision from among conservatives pointed out flatly that an increase in military expenditures above the set limit aggravates the concern of Asian peoples over a steady growth in Japanese military muscles, which is fraught with this country turning into a military power.

Prime Minister Nakasone who gave the green light to the present decision, repeatedly declared that Japan would not be a military power. However, KYODO TSUSHIN justifiably comments today, the present decision opens the way to a steady increase in military expenditures. Besides, past experience shows that initial small shifts in the Japanese military policy resulted in major quantitative and qualitative changes both inside the country and in its role in the international arena, especially in the Asian and Pacific region.

The Japanese Communist Party called the government decision a "declaration of the start of an unbridled military buildup". The Socialist Party states that the government has trampled underfoot the spirit of peaceableness permeating the Japanese Constitution. This is a challenge to the unanimous desire of the Japanese for continuing the peace policy, states the clerical Komeito Party. "This is the most anti-popular decision in the entire post-war history of the country," says a statement by the Union of Social Democrats. But people overseas, especially in the Pentagon, do not conceal their joy. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger called the decision by the Japanese Government an extremely pleasant step.

Justifying a resolute departure of the Japanese ruling quarters from the previous [policy] in military matters, Tokyo now alleges that the liquidation of the one per cente limit "will mitigate the anti-Japanese sentiments in the U.S. Congress" where demands are growing for the administration to stiffen its attitude to the Far-Eastern competitor. However, past experience shows that concessions to Washington in military preparations only temporarily took off, at the best, the acute nature of trade and economic contradictions between the USA and Japan without removing their prime causes. On the other hand, they invariably put an increased burden of military, political and financial obligations onto the "junior partner". Small doubt that this will be the case this time.

"The breakthrough" by the Japanese ruling quarters in the most important area of the country's policy will undoubtedly step up the process of militarist preparations in Japan and its involvement in the U.S. strategy of military and political confrontation, which is fraught with unpredictable consequences for the Japanese people as well as for peace and stability in the Asian and Pacific region.

THIRD SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM WITH JAPAN ENDS

LD261314 Moscow TASS in English 1227 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tokyo December 26 TASS -- The third Soviet-Japanese scientific symposium which discussed the further development of scientific exchanges and contacts between scientists of the Soviet Far East and Japan, ended in Osaka today. The symposim noted that the Soviet initiatives on developing international cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region as well as reorganization of foreign economic relations opened new favourable prospects for joint actions of scientists to tackle scientific and practical tasks of cooperation between enterprises. The symposium was attended by representatives of the Far Eastern Scientific Centre of the USSR Academy ot Sciences and leading scientists of Japanese research centres from Osaka, Tokyo and Hokkaido.

JAPANESE DEFENSE CHIEF TO VISIT PRC IN MAY

PM311333 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 3

[From roundup of TASS and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports on "Foreign Military News"]

[Text] According to reports from Tokyo, Y. Kurihara, chief of Japan's National Defense Agency, will visit China in May 1987. This will be the first visit to Beijing by a chief of the Japanese military department since the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1972. The timing of the visit was agreed upon following an official invitation to Y. Kurihara by PRC Defense Minister Zhang Aiping.

KIM IL-SONG PROPOSES KOREAN 'UNIFICATION' SUMMIT

LD302048 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made one more step towards national reconciliation and unification of Korea. General secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, President of the DPRK Kim Il-song has proposed that summit military-political negotiations be held between the north and the south of the country with a view of building up confidence between the sides and relaxing tension, discussing questions of mutual cooperation and exchanges, reducing armed forces, ending the arms race and big military exercises. The success of such negotiations, said the Korean leader, would enable summit North-South negotiations to discuss the basis issues relating to reunification of the country.

The DPRK's new peaceable act is not casual. The situation shaping in the Korean peninsula and around it is the cause of rightful concern of both the Korean people and the peoples of other Asian countries. [paragraph continues]

Over the long years of occupation the U.S. military turned the south of Korea into an explosive nuclear bridgehead, with hundreds of nuclear warheads and numerous delivery vehicles -- from artillery guns to newest planes -- deployed there. Moreover, the United States has recently taken the decision to deploy its "Lance" tactical missiles in South Korea.

It is noteworthy that the United States is taking steps to build up its military might in the Korean peninsula every time when one witnesses even the slightest outlines of positive changes in the dialogue between the north and the south of Korea.

For many years the DPRK Government has been working for the solution of the Korean question through peaceful means, in the national interests of the Korean people, in the interests of peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region. Suffice it to mention the DPRK's proposal that all American troops and nuclear weapons be withdrawn from South Korea, that a peace treaty should come in place of the Armistice Agreement, that a democratic confederal republic of Korea be formed. Materialization of the DPRK's proposal on establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Korean peninsula would also be a serious contribution. But the DRPK's constructive proposals invariably encounter stubborn opposition of the United States which is nurturing criminal aggressive plans towards Asian countries, above all socialist states.

Materialization of the DPRK's new initiative would undoubtedly help remove dangerous tension in the Korean Peninsula, open the way to solution of the national problem of the Korean people as a whole. Withdrawal of all American occupation troops from the south of Korea is an indispensable condition for that, the DPRK Government stressed on many occasions.

MPR'S BATMONH SUPPORTS SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVES

PM021513 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "The Peoples' Right"]

[Text] The outgoing year will remain in the history of international life as a year of determined struggle to defend peace and prevent a nuclear catastrophe. This was stated by J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the MPR's People's Great Hural, at a New Year meeting with the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Ulaanbaatar.

It is symbolic, the Mongolian leader emphasized, that the Soviet program for the phased elimination of nuclear and other types of mass-destruction weapons was promulgated right at the start of 1986. Another noteworthy event was the Reykjavik meeting between the leaders of the USSR and the United States. If the United States had accepted there the Soviet Union's large-scale, farsighted, and bold proposals, real prospects for the creation of a nuclear-free world would have opened up. Right now, when mankind is confronted with the question of self-preservation in all its acuteness, the peoples of the world have the right to demand of the United States a positive approach to the Soviet Union's constructive proposals and initiatives.

The MPR, J. Batmonh stated, will continue to adhere consistently to the course of broadening and deepening fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation with the countries of the socialist community.

DRA'S NAJIB SPEAKS ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

PM051254 Moscow PRAVDA In Russian 5 Jan 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Call for Talks: Najib Speech"]

[Text] Kabul, 4 Jan -- A session of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation was held here with the participation of representatives of a broad strata of the public, clergy, and intelligentsia. The session was addressed by Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and our country's government, he stated, I appeal to you to commence talks on national reconciliation. In taking this serious, responsible step the party and the revolutionary authorities are guided by supreme interests -- the interests of the people and of the present and future generations. It is concern for the people's well-being and the preservation, literally, of life on Afghan soil which is the basis of this historic initiative.

The party, state, and government, Najib stressed, are today taking a step of tremendous political courage, proposing to all warring parties that they cease fire and start a process of national reconciliation and national rebirth. We can take this peace-loving step because we are stronger than ever before. The revolutionary process in Afghanistan is irreversible. We have created a serious political system in which millions of people are involved. We have organized patriots into the National Fatherland Front and helped young people and representatives of all professions, social groups, and strata of the population to unite. The National Fatherland Front is an 800,000-strong organized army of Afghan patriots, whose nucleus consists of 170,000 party members. We have created a new state capable fo defending itself and have awoken tens of thousands of people and involved them in running the country. The first revolutionary 5-year plan has been drawn up and is being implemented. We have created 160,000 new jobs. We have built many new industrial projects, provided lighting in hundreds of villages, and given thousands of people housing. We have taught 1.5 million people to read and write and built 400 schools and 120 hospitals and medical centers.

The DRA state flag, Najib went on to say, flies in the capitals of nearly 100 states in the world. We have strong, loyal, and reliable friends -- the Soviet Union, the socialist states, the nonaligned countries, and progressive forces. They will always help, and they will never abandon us when we are in trouble.

We are beginning a historic process of national reconciliation, the PDPA Central Committee general secretary noted. Its principles are simple and clear to everyone. The PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government solemnly proclaim that from 15 January this year, for 6 months, all branches of the armed forces and militarized formations are to cease fire unilaterally. All military and civil authorities are receiving instructions to show restraint, not to yield to provocations, and firmly to ensure the cease-fire and the implementation of the truce at the local level. Only in case of extreme necessity, given a flagrant, direct attack by the opposing side, will our armed forces open retaliatory fire. Within the framework of the process of national reconciliation which is beginning, current and long-term tasks will be resolved, such as: the renunciation of armed struggle and bloodshed in resolving questions of Afghanistan's present and future; fair representation in the political structure and economic life; guaranteed nonpersecution for previous political activity; a general amnesty; and the preservation and augmentation of historical, national, and cultural traditions.

What lofty goals do we set ourselves? The people's power will seek to create a government of national unity involving broad political forces, right up to giving it the nature of a coalition. The attainment as soon as possible of a political settlement around the DRA on the basis of the cessation and guaranteed nonresumption of outside interference. [sentence incomplete as published] All this would accelerate the return home of the limited contingent of Soviet troops who are in Afghanistan at the request of the DRA Government.

With whom do we seek reconciliation? With all of Afghanistan's patriots, regardless of former political views, injuries, or enmity. We seek reconciliation with political parties, groups, and factions. We are prepared to receive home all those who could not join us before. We seek reconciliation with political parties, groups, and factions. We are prepared to receive home all those who could not join us before. We seek reconciliation with all armed formations within the country. At present, 417 such groups, numbering a total of 37,000 people, are taking part in talks with organs of the people's power. We are in favor of accelerating and widening such contacts. We seek reconciliation with those of our enemies who are serving sentences in prisons; their doors will be opened in a few days. We call for reconciliation and the return home of all Afghans living abroad. Appealing to them, we call on all honest patriots to join in building a new life in their own country. A special administration for receiving them and providing for them has been set up under the Council of Ministers. We do not exclude from the process of national reconciliation, Najib noted, Islamic organizations and other political groupings and the leaders of armed formations operating abroad.

The commission members who spoke at the session came out in support of the policy of national reconciliation and gave assurances that they will take practical steps to put it into practice. The commission unanimously approved the declaration of the DRA Revolutionary Council, read out at the session, "On National Reconciliation in Afghanistan."

The Supreme Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation sent messages to the leaders of Iran, Pakistan, the PRC, and India, to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and the peoples of the UN member countries, to R. Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and the countries participating in the movement, and to the Islamic Conference Organization. The messages explain the ideas and goals of the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

DRA CEASE-FIRE ANNOUNCEMENT, NAJIB SPEECH VIEWED

PM051415 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 87 Morning Edition pp 1, 3

[Own correspondent D. Meshchaninov dispatch: "Afghanistan: Call for National Reconciliation. DRA Revolutionary Council Declaration"]

[Text] Kabul -- The DRA Revolutionary Council has unanimously adopted a declaration "On National Reconciliation in Afghanistan." It says: "On this historic day we appeal to the conscience and patriotic feelings of the motherland's sons, the brothers and sisters...all tribes, ethnic groups, and nationalities in Afghanistan, and all who sincerely desire the people's happiness and our beloved fatherland's prosperity."

The declaration announces a cease-fire by the DRA Armed Forces as of 15 January this year. The truce will continue until 15 July 1987 on condition that the other side joins it. In the event that the truce is observed by both sides, it may be expanded.

Extraordinary commissions will be set up in villages, rural districts, regions, and provinces. Their task will be to achieve reconciliation and accord at the corresponding level. The Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation will be the top organ. The commissions can convene peace jirgas at all levels to resolve major fundamental questions.

The extraordinary commissions are given a number of special powers. Groups of physicians, medicines, irrigation and agriculture specialists, seeds and fertilizers, and staple commodities for free distribution will be dispatched locally at their request. The commissions are given the right to resolve questions concerning land ownership and the organization of land and water reform on their territory. They can submit suggestions for amnesty for certain detainees subject to guaranteed nonresumption of their antipeople activity.

When national reconciliation has been achieved and a given village, rural district, region, or province has been declared a "zone of peace," the DRA Revolutionary Council and Government will grant specific state subsidies to the population in these zones.

The people's power, the declaration says, will strive to create a national unity government, right up to the point of giving it a coalition structure with the participation of broad political forces. The people's power will further the creation of favorable conditions for the return home of units from the limited contingent of Soviet troops, given guaranteed noninterference in the DRA's affairs from outside and the nonresumption of such interference in the future.

A session of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, consisting of 277 people, the most authoritative representatives of the working class and the peasantry, entrepreneurs and artisans, clergy and intelligentsia, was held on the same day. They assembled in the capital from all Afghanistan's districts and provinces. Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, addressed the meeting.

"On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and our country's government," he said, "I call upon you to begin talks on national reconciliation. In taking such a serious and responsible step, the party and the revolutionary power are guided by the highest interests -- the interests of the people and of the present and future generations. It is concern for the people's well-being and the direct preservation of life on Afghan soil that underlies this historic initiative... We are in a position to take this peace-loving step because we are stronger than ever before. The revolutionary process in Afghanistan is irreversible. The march of time cannot be halted. How many times have the extremists proclaimed that they will end the revolutionary power! How many deadlines they have set over the last 8 years! But the DRA is alive, gathering strength, and struggling successfully.

"Today, therefore," Najib went on, "being strong and aware of it, we have decided to take the most important step in our life: We offer a hand of peace to all brother Afghans... With whom do we want reconciliation? With all honest patriots of Afghanistan, regardless of former political insults and enmities. We want reconciliation with political parties, groups, and factions. We are prepared to welcome home all who could not join us previously. We want reconciliation with all armed formations within the country. The organs of the people's power are not holding talks with 417 such groups, with a total strength of 37,000 men. We are in favor of accelerating and expanding these contacts. We call for reconciliation and the return home of all Afghans living abroad. Addressing the refugees, we call on all honest patriots to join in the building of the new life in their own country.

"The PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government solemnly proclaim that all branches of the armed forces and militarized formations will observe a unilateral cease-fire for 6 months starting 15 January this year. All military and civil authorities have been issued with instructions to show restraint, not to succumb to provocations, and to firmly ensure the cease-fire and implementation of reconciliation at the local level. Our Armed Forces will fire back only in the event of extreme necessity, in cases of obvious and direct attack by the opposite side.

"We know," the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee went on to say, "that the reconciliation has quite a few enemies... These are renegades and mercenaries, people without a home or hearth. They betray our traditional faith and are the accomplices of international terrorist organizations. These men entreat one another: Peace cannot be allowed to replace war. These figues fear one another; they fear the ordinary Afghans they have duped. They know that they can only be the losers in honest talks; hence, they call on one another to keep the trenches warm and the rostrums cold. But do the Afghans need this? Let me tell you: The fraticidal war goes on because world imperialism, mercenaries, and reactionaries of all hues want the Afghans to remain in darkness, in the centuries-old shackles of economic and cultural backwardness.

"The reconciliation has many friends on all continents," Najib said in conclusion, "because the main word on the lips of all peoples today is peace. The Soviet Union, recognized bastion of peace and mainstay of peace, heads the struggle for peace! Today our people nurture just one wish in their hearts and their minds: Peace! This is why we want peace, we offer peace, and, finally, we demand peace! I say to each and every Afghan home these simple and clear words: 'Peace in every home! Peace in Afghanistan! Let the guns be silent forever!'"

The speech by the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee was followed by a free exchange of opinions on problems of national reconciliation and the establishment of peace and tranquility on Afghan soil. The participants in the session of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission unanimously approved the DRA Revolutionary Council's declaration "On National Reconciliation in Afghanistan." The commission sent appeals to the leaders of Iran, Pakistan, the PRC, and India, to UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar and the peoples of UN member countries, to Nonaligned Movement Chairman R. Mugabe and the movement's member countries, and to the Islamic Conference Organization. The messages explain the idea and objectives of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

DRA NATIONAL RECONCILIATION DECLARATION APPROVED

LD031657 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul January 3 TASS -- A meeting of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was held here today. It discussed and approved a declaration on national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Starting with January 15 of this year, the document says, the relevant bodies of the DRA are ordered: to cease all fire, suspend combat operations; bring the troops back to the points of their permanent deployment and to switch to peace-time routines; stop artillery and air strikes at the enemy if it does not pose a danger to the peaceful population. The Armed Forces are to limit themselves to protecting the state border, state and military installations, the fulfilment of other purely defensive and economic tasks.

On our side the armistice will continue till July 15, 1987 on condition that it [is] joined by the opposite side, the declaration says further. If the armistice is observed by both sides it can be extended.

In response to our peaceful steps we expect an end to the opening of fire with any types of arms at towns, settlements, enterprises, military units and air transport, an end to the delivery to and deployment on the territory of the DRA of weapons and ammunition, to the mining of roads, to acts of terror and subversion.

Our proposals, the declaration stresses, are from the bottom of our heart. We are ready for mutual understanding, talks, compromises and even concessions. But let no one take our self-restraint for a sign of weakness.

The declaration further defines the powers and composition of the local extraordinary commission for national reconciliation. It says that the highest body is the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation in Afghanistan. The commissions consist of leaders of the National Fatherland Front, the elders of tribes, clergymen and, in separate instances, leaders of armed formations.

When national reconcilation is attained and a settlement, county, district or province are declared a "zone of peace", the declaration says, the Revolutionary Council and Government of the DRA will ensure the population of these zones with conrete state benefit, in particular will grant them the right to a democratic organisation of local bodies of power and administration. The leaders of bandit groups arriving for talks are guaranteed safety and a safe return.

On stopping active struggle against people's power the population of districts, counties and settlements may freely travel throughout the entire territory of the DRA with the aim of visiting relatives, performing religious rituals or, if they want, to learn the truth about the aims and tasks of the April Revolution. Those wishing can go to the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the Revolutionary Council, the Council of Ministers, to all party, state and public bodies, and they will be warmly welcomed everywhere.

As a sign of its sincere striving for national peace and accord the Revolutionary Council of the DRA has issues a special decree announcing the release from prison of those persons who undertake not to perpetrate hostile actions against the revolutionary people.

The Revolutionary Council of the DRA officially confirms that all citizens of Afghanistan who have happened to find themselves in the camp of its enemies or have left the country as a result of deceit but have become conscious of their patriotic duty and laid down arms will be forgiven by the homeland. The people has granted them full amnesty. They will be treated with consideration and compassion.

The Revolutionary Council of the DRA solemnly declares: The religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan and this will be formalised in Article 2 of the new Constitution. The people's power will strive for the creation of a government of national unity, up to and including the imparting of a coalition character to it by attracting broad political forces. The people's power will facilitate the creation of favourable conditions for the return home of units of the limited contingent of Soviet troops given non-interference in the DRA's internal affairs from outside and its non-resumption in the future is guaranteed.

The Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation in Afghanistan also held its meeting (?today). It was attended by representatives of broad sections of the public, clergy and intelligentsia. The meeting was addressed by the General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Najib.

WESTERN REACTION TO CEASE-FIRE ANNOUNCEMENT HIT

LD042101 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2008 GMT 4 Jan 87

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Igor Kudrin]

[Text] Hello, comrades! As you know, the people of Afghanistan have grown tired of the hostile actions of the bandits, of fear and provocations. There is a way out of the difficult and grave situation. There has been a wide response throughout the world to the proposals of the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for a cease-fire starting on 15 January.

But whereas the friends of people's Afghanistan welcome these peaceful initiatives, dictated as they are by concern for the welfare of the entire people, Western politicians and the right-wing press are taking a different attitude to these initiatives. It is interesting that this press bases all its commentaries -- which are suspiciously off the mark, incidentally -- on the negative and crude statements by the bandit bosses, who are for some reason described as leaders [vozhd]. These newspapers see in the gesture of the Afghan Government nothing but bare propaganda, the hand of Moscow that is allegedly setting some sort of a trap for the antigovernment forces. This was the point of view expressed by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, too. [video shows woman at microphone at press conference]

But the policy of national reconciliation is not based upon an empty space, as the spokeswoman asserts. Steps in this direction have already been made before. They found their expression, in particular, in the inclusion of representatives of nonruling parties in the country's government; and, finally, a direct summons to dialogue has just been issued to all groupings in the country, regardless of their political orientation.

The bandit bosses do not want to lay down their weapons. And Washington, Pakistan, and a number of other countries -- some countries in Western Europe -- with their sympathy and support for them, thereby shove them into the fire of a fraticidal war. This shows yet again just how indifferent the West is to the fate of the Afghan people.

A former Pakistani finance minister, Mubashir Hasan, has appealed to the Pakistani administration to reply in a positive spirit to the Afghan Government statement on the cease-fire. Hasan backed up the DRA Government proposal for a cease-fire and for an amnesty to be granted to the opponents. Mubashir Hasan went on to declare that if Pakistan declared its intention to cease its intervention in Afghanistan, then there would be no further grounds for the contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan to maintain its presence.

U.S., ALLIES PLAN TO 'WRECK' AFGHAN CEASE-FIRE

LD031535 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1452 GMT 3 Jan 87

["Self-Exposure of the Enemies of Afghanistan" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Jan (TASS) -- TASS political observer Boris Shabayev writes:

The bold political initiative of Democratic Afghanistan -- the comprehensive program of national reconciliation which was put foward by the extraordinary extended plenum of the PDPA Central Committee -- has been one of the most important events of the first days of the New Year.

It was dictated by an understanding of the fact that the people are tired of the prolonged war imposed upon them by the forces of imperialism and local reaction and they demand an end to the bloodshed. It is aimed at solving the main and most vital task -- achieving peace and security in order to ensure and guarantee for Afghanistan the status of a sovereign, nonaligned, and independent state. This is the very kind of status for Afghanistan about which those who are waging the armed struggle against the people's power pontificate unceasingly.

The boldness of this program is vividly revealed in the fact that it does not exclude from the process of national reconciliation any opposition political groupings that are disposed to follow the independent line, and this goes as far as their participation in local organs of power and the creation of a coalition government. Its specific nature lies in the fact that it envisages the declaration of a cease-fire on a nationwide scale from 15 January as a first and most important step toward peace.

Thus the people's government in Afghanistan is presenting each opposition force with a genuine opportunity of expressing itself and its specific interests in any sphere -- social, economic, or political -- in conditions of peaceful coexistence and cooperation. How has the DRA's appeal been received? In France, FIGARO has called it very impressive and well-considered; in Britain, the INDEPENDENT has noted that it guarantees Kabul the diplomatic initiative on the eve of the latest round of talks under the auspices of the United Nations Organization.

However, the reaction from those who will, above all, determine whether the long-awaited peace will come to Afghanistan -- official Washington and the ringleaders of counterrevolutionary groupings whom it maintains -- has shown more convincingly than any words the true face of the organizers of the undeclared war. Hardly had the news of the program of national reconciliation adopted in Kabul reached Washington, when they hastened to express "doubts about whether it would gain the support" of the dushmans entrenched in Pakistan. Issued in this way, the command reached its destination and Washington's hirelings responded to Kabul's proposal with a call to step up the brigandish operations against the DRA.

The world can see yet again that as soon as real prospects for achieving a political settlement around Afghanistan appear, the United States and certain of its closest NATO allies try frantically to wreck it. What really lies behind such a policy was described a few days ago by the West German FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE with the directness that is characteristic on the the banks of the Rhine. The strengthening of the positions of those who support a political solution for Afghanistan, the newspaper grieves, may lead to a recognition of the irreversisbility of revolutionary reforms in Afghan society. Therefore, it continues, the talk should be not of a political settlement, but of increasing aid to the "rebels". Well, you can't put it any clearer than that...

U.S. CONTINUES TO SUPPORT AFGHAN 'TERRORISTS'

LD302024 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1124 GMT 30 Dec 86

[TASS correspondents Andrey Greshnov and Oleg Kuzmin report from Kabul]

[Text] Kabul, 30 Dec (TASS) -- It is difficult to believe that the skinny and swarthy Abdul Bari is 12 years old. He seems altogether tiny, lying on a "grown-up" bed. His eyes, however, could have belonged to an old man -- such is the unchildlike grief permanently reflected in them. The Afghan boy saw how his father and mother died. [passage omitted]

Facts speak for themselves. Thousands of Afghan children have become victims of the war, waged on the soil of Afghanistan by the bandits who are a tool of U.S. imperialism. The size of the U.S. "aid" to the Afghan counterrevolutionary gangs is approaching the fantastic sum of $2 billion. These billions are certainly not spent on purchases of foodstuffs and medicines for the Afghan "refugees," as is claimed in Washington, but on arming terrorists and saboteurs. Enormous containers, arriving in the Pakistani port of Karachi from the United States, and subsequently transported to the regions bordering on the DRA, contain antiaircraft missiles, artillery guns and mortars, grenades containing poisonous susbstances, and mines. During the course of recent combat operations in the Nangarhar Province, subunits of the Afghan Army seized thousands of U.S.-manufactured missiles. [passage omitted]

AFGHAN PLANE HIT BY REBEL MISSILE, LANDS SAFELY

PM051041 [Editorial report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 27 December 1986 in its Second Edition carries on page 5 under the headline "Fiery Landing" a 2,300-word report by correspondent Major A. Oliynik on the successful landing of an Afghan AN-26 military transport aircraft at Kabul airport after being hit by a dushman missile. The aircraft was reportedly approaching the airport one October evening with 25 passengers on board when its left engine nacelle was hit by an U.S.-made antiaircraft missile above the village of Malang, 17 km from Kabul, a region once frequented by an "Islamic Revolution Movement" gang. The article states that it later came to light that "a team with a portable antiaircraft missle system under the protection of one (Sartur's) gang had occupied the almost 3,000-meter height of (Shakhi-Barantay), which dominates the locality." The Afghan pilots reportedly ascribed the safe landing to the Soviet-made aircraft's reliability and their own training under Soviet officers.

KABUL MILITIA SEIZE OVER 30 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN

LD041919 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1634 GMT 4 Jan 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast; TASS report]

[Text] Kabul people's militia functionaries have arrested three drug traders. Twenty nine packets of heroin, the total weight of which exceeds 30 kilograms, have been found in a hiding-place which the dealers made.

The BAKHTAR agency emphasizes that the local population actively cooperated with the people's militia functionaries in bringing the criminals to justice. As has already been reported, a large batch of drugs, en route from Pakistan to London via Kabul, has recently been seized at Kabut International Airport. Complicity in this criminal operation of the bandit gangs, entrenched on the Pakistani territory, and of Western special services, was established during the course of the investigation.

SOKOLOV GREETS SFRY'S MAMULA ON ARMY JUBILEE

PM221603 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Dec 86 Second Edition p 1

[Message from Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister, to Fleet Admiral B. Mamula, SFRY federal secretary for national defense]

[Text] To Comrade Fleet Admiral B. Mamula, SFRY federal secretary for national defense:

Esteemed Comrade Federal Secretary!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own behalf, I send you and all Yugoslav servicemen cordial congratulations on the 45th anniversary of the Yugoslav People's Army.

Soviet servicemen are deeply convinced that the unswerving development of relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR Armed Forces and the Yugoslav People's Army is in the interests of our countries' peoples and serves the cause of peace and socialism.

I wish all Yugoslav People's Army personnel further success in their combat training and in implementing the 13th LCY Congress decisions.

With communist greetings,

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister

ROMANIAN ENVOY PRESENTS AWARD TO GROMYKO 26 DEC

AU261913 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1842 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow AGERPRES 26/12/1986 -- A festivity was arranged at the Kremlin, Friday December 26, during which "The Star of the Socialist Republic of Romania" Order First Class with Sash was presented to Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the CPSU, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, for his contribution to the development of cooperation between the RCP and the CPSU, to the strengthening of friendly ties between the Romanian people and the Soviet peoples, to the advancement of the general cause of socialism, international peace and cooperation, on his 74th birthday.

Upon an assignment from President Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's ambassador in Moscow, Ion M. Nicolae, handed over the high order and warmly congratulated the recipient.

A.A. Gromyko said he thanked Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's party and state leadership for the high award. The speaker highlighted the importance attached to the continuing growth of the Romanian-Soviet friendly and cooperative relations, to the active cooperation between the two parties, states and peoples -- bilaterally and internationally. He sent the president of Romania his best wishes for the new year.

TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ROMANIA 29 DEC

LD291444 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow, 29 Dec (TASS) -- Intergovernmental documents aimed at expanding Soviet-Romanian trade and economic cooperation were signed today in Moscow. The documents were signed, on the Soviet side, by Boris Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade, and by Serafim Kolpakov, USSR minister of ferrous metallurgy, and on the Romanian side by Ilie Vaduva, minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation.

A protocol on goods turnover between the USSR and Romania for 1987 calls for an increase in the volume of mutually advantageous trade, including output from industries which are crucial to scientific and technical progress. A considerable proportion of the Soviet Union's plant and machinery exports to Romania will consist of metal-working, mining and textile machinery, road-building equipment, goods produced by the electronic and electro-technical industries, ships and ship's machinery.

The USSR is to continue supplying Romania with a range of major fuel-energy and raw material goods: gas, coal, petroleum, electricity, iron ore, cotton, cellulose, apatite, and chemicals.

In accordance with the protocol Romania will supply the Soviet Union with oil drilling and oil extraction equipment, railway cars, vessels of various kinds, consumer goods and a range of chemicals and other goods.

Agreements on Romanian participation in the construction of the Krivoy Rog mining and dressing combine in the USSR have been signed. This will make it possible to guarantee deliveries of iron-bearing raw materials to Romania from the USSR on a long-term basis. Agreements on the transit of Soviet natural gas across Romanian territory were also signed.

It was agreed that the two countries' foreign trade bodies will help develop specialization and production cooperation on the basis of direct links between Soviet and Romanian enterprises and associations, and will help to increase the contribution made by mutual trade to implementing the CEMA member countries' Integrated Program of Scientific and Technical Progress up to the Year 2000.

1987 TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH POLAND

LD240328 Warsaw PAP in English 2128 GMT 23 Dec 86

[By PAP correspondent Jozef Rzeszut]

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 23 -- Polish and Soviet Government delegations, headed by Ministers of Foreign Trade Andrzej Wojcik and Boris Aristov, respectively, signed a 1987 protocol on trade and payments here today. The turnover will reach 13.6 billion roubles, increasing by about 5 percent over 1986 in comparable prices. The protocol reflects the trend towards balancing bilateral payments in the current five-year period.

Machines and equipment will dominate Polish exports to the Soviet Union -- about 60 percent of all supplies, or nearly 11 percent more than this year. The key exports include ships and ship repair services, machines and equipment for the power and electronic industry and turn-key industrial complexes, machine tools and tools, automotive equipment.

Consumer goods will make up about 19 percent of Polish exports. These include products of the light, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, leather and furniture industry. The share of raw materials and materials in Polish exports will total about 17 percent and will mainly include hard coal, metallurgical products, copper, sulphur, sulphuric acid and other chemical products.

Raw materials, fuels and materials for processing form the biggest group of imports from the Soviet Union, with their share in overall supplies totalling 71 percent. Machines and equipment and consumer durables also rank high among Polish impo ts.

This year many agreements have been signed on new forms of economic cooperation. These agreements concern, among other things, credits granted by the Soviet Union for developing and modernizing 11 Polish plants with a large share of exported output, creating joint enterprises and for direct production and scientific-technical cooperation between enterprises and scientific-research institutes.

GDR AMITY GROUP, GSFG SIGN COOPERATION PLAN

PM311337 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Cooperation Plan Signed"]

[Text] Berlin, 30 Dec -- A plan for cooperation in 1987 has been signed here between the GDR-Soviet Friendship Society Central Board and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany Political Directorate. The organization of joint events helping to further deepen the close friendship between the peoples and armies of the Soviet Union and the GDR is envisaged. The sides' main efforts will be concentrated on preparations for a fitting celebration of the Great October's 70th anniversary.

The plan was signed by H. Kuhrig, vice president of the GDR-Soviet Friendship Society, and Lieutenant General N. Moiseyev, member of the Military Council and chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany Political Directorate.

BRIEFS

POLISH CULTURAL COOPERATION -- Moscow, Jan. 4 -- Poland and the Soviet Union signed a protocol on founding an intergovernmental commission for cultural and scientific cooperation here today. The commission will be responsible for the exchange of information on the development of culture, science, and education in both countries. It will also study the state of and prospects for developing bilateral contacts in this field, and work out recommendations concerning the implementation of bilateral agreements. The commission is to hold sessions at least once in two years in Warsaw and Moscow alternately. [Text] [Warsaw PAP in English 1710 GMT 4 Jan 87 LD]

ENVOY TO LIBYA SUMMONED, GIVEN 'URGENT MESSAGE'

LD050728 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0727 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jan (JANA) -- JANA has learned that the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah was summoned and asked to convey an urgent message to the Kremlin, as attempts are being made to sacrifice peace on the African Continent for the sake of imperialist ambitions based on false analyses, deception, and blackmail on the part of big powers, the victim of which will be peace in Africa.

YEMEN SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION VISITS 11-18 DEC

PM281514 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Guests from the PDRY"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], a delegation of YSP party workers headed by 'Abd al-Ghani, deputy chief of a YSP Central Committee section, [title as received] was in the Soviet Union 11-18 December. The South Yemeni guests had conversations in the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section and toured the Tatar ASSR, where they familiarized themselves with the activity of party organizations to fulfill the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, with the progress of restructuring in all spheres of the country's sociopolitical and economic life, and with experience of party organizational work.

PDRY ENVOY MEETS WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

LD171621 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ilah, member of the Central Committee and our country's ambassador to the Soviet Union, had a meeting yesterday with Comrade Vlasov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Minister of Internal Affairs. He conveyed greetings from Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of interior.

During the meeting, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, they discussed ways of developing cooperation between the Interior Ministries of the two friendly countries. The two sides expressed complete satisfaction at the continued development of relations between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union in various spheres. These relations are based on the firm foundations of the friendship and cooperation agreement signed between them in October 1979.

The brother ambassador expressed his sincere thanks to Comrade Vlasov and through him to the Soviet Government for the valuable assistance which the Soviet Union is giving Democratic Yemen in its struggle against imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary conspiracies, and for building a new life.

OFFICIALS SAID 'RESISTING' OPENNESS CAMPAIGN

LD021920 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Jan 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video talk by commentator Aleksandr Tikhomirov]

[Text] In summing up the results of the past year we consider it essential to speak again about openness [glasnosti], about that which after the 27th party congress has been named in our history by the lessons of truth. We also learned this during the days of the congress' work, when for the first time in many years the word uttered from the rostrum not just partially but fully corresponded with what was said behind the scenes [v kuluarakh]. This was something we learned throughout 1986.

Of course, the inertia of past years has had its effect. (Vladimir Pavlovich Kobaidze), one of the well-known organizers of production in our country, said to us at the congress about restructuring: Prepare yourselves, there will be a great struggle. At that time we deleted this phrase from the interview because we reckoned: What kind of struggle can there be if the party has decided? But now we are satisfied that it is indeed a struggle. Officials and bureaucrats are resisting, because the economic methods of management are pulling the chairs out from under them. Let's open a newspaper: Now behind every fact an actual address, surname, and post are given. Things are being called by their names. If a person is a bribe-taker or a thief, irrespective of what sort of position or what kind of post he may have held or may have abused, that is how it is stated: He is a thief or a bribe-taker.

Stop! they said. At the outset dozens of letters came in to our television studio and indeed are still coming in now. You are discrediting the system and discrediting the party, the letters say. But we reply that socialism cannot be discredited in conditions of openness, because openness is one of the essential conditions of its development. In addition, the party is not something abstract; it is impossible to take refuge (?in it) behind its millions because in the local areas people can still see every real face.

We are talking about the restoration of Leninist norms of party life. The party is purging itself in conditions of openness. The economy is seeking new paths. Whom does openness disturb? It probably disturbs only the time server, whose aim is to sit it out for a while and then to jump across into another easy chair, and after him everything can go to hell. We know that last year not only at the level of individual enterprises but also at that of entire republics people were held strictly accountable for inflated reporting and deception. Award banners and prizes were taken away. When have such things ever taken place?

In the economy entire sectors were closed to criticism -- for example, Aeroflot, the excuse being that criticism would undermine its prestige on international lines. We will recall that the party Central Committee took under its protection the VOZDUSHNIY TRANSPORT newspaper. The minister was severely called to task about suppression of criticism, and after this did Aeroflot lose its prestige on international lines? It didn't, did it?

Or take the following fact: You know that the "Vremya" program is watched via satellite in many countries. It was considered that because of this we ought to limit the amount of critical material. I don't know of any of the most acute problems that haven't recently been given an airing on the screen. Does the country's prestige in the world really suffer as a result of this? Quite the contrary: as the responses show, it is growing.

Let's recall the Central Committee decisions on instances of persecution for making criticisms -- decisions which halted the diversion of the northern rivers and decisions on the Baykal. All of this indicates that the party is not just calling on us for openness, but that the party is demanding openness from us. And this is not a campaign during which it is possible to sit it out, as some people believe. This is a congress policy.

What did we learn last year? First, through many examples we learned the true price of mismanagement and irresponsibility. But we learned at meetings to talk not from scraps of paper but by looking each other straight in the eye. We learned that there are no persons not subject to debate because the order is the same for all. Thousands of letters are now coming in to us in television: Continue: continue the expansion of openness, because only through it can we learn to value people properly according to their work and to stop feeding idlers.

Life is becoming more comprehensible and goals are getting clearer, don't you agree?

LIGACHEV, TALYZIN ADDRESS LAKE BAYKAL CONFERENCE

PM051032 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Conference at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] A conference on problems of protecting Lake Baykal was held at the CPSU Committee on 26 December.

Taking part in the conference were members of the commisson set up by the CPSU Central Committee to prepare proposals on strengthening the conservation and rational utilization of this unique natural area, senior officials of the USSR Gosplan, the AUCCTU, ministries and departments, and the USSR Academy of Sciences, and also scientists and representatives of the public.

A report on the work done by the commission was delivered by N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan. He noted that as a result of the measures adopted there has been a lessening of the negative effect of economic activity on the state of the region's water and air environment. He reported on the shortcomings revealed and the unresolved questions and problems, as well as the comprehensive measures elaborated by the commission to reduce industrial effluent into Lake Baykal, clean up the atmosphere, and protect the forests, as well as on the changing character of production at the Baykal pulp combine.

Speaking at the conference, M.I. Busygin, USSR minister of the timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry; N.F. Vasilyev, USSR minister of land reclamation and water resources; Yu.A. Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control; L.B. Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; Academicians A.L. Yanshin and V.A. Koptyug, vice presidents of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Academician B.N. Laskorin; Doctor of Sciences O.M. Kozhova; writer V.G. Rasputin; and other participants in the conference spoke of the work of ministries and departments to reduce the negative effects on the nature and environment of Baykal, and the need to strengthen monitoring of the production activity of enterprises and organizations, and ensure more active participation by science in the creation of modern manufacturing processes and in rendering industrial effluent and discharges harmless. They submitted concrete proposals on the questions discussed.

The results of the conference were summed up by Ye. K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee. He noted that the measures adopted in accordance with CPSU Central Committee and government decisions have substantially changed the situation in the Lake Baykal region for the better. At the same time concern about its fate remains. It was stressed that it is a question of the rational utilization and conservation of wealth unequalled not only in our country, but throughout the world. The opinion was voiced that implementation of the planned measures should be subsantially brought forward, that the measures should be made realistic, that the necessary material and technical resources should be allocated for these purposes, and that specific individuals be designated for the implementation of the planned measures, leaving no loopholes for the evasion of responsibility. The leaders of certain ministries and departments and the USSR Academy of Sciences were criticized for their passive attitude toward resolving a number of urgent matters concerning the protection of Baykal and the development of waste-free manufacturing processes.

The USSR Gosplan was instructed, in the light of the commission's proposals and the discussion which took place, to complete in the shortest possible time the drafting of a resolution on the rational utilization and conservation of the natural environment of Lake Baykal, and to submit it to the CPSU Central Committee and the government.

PRESIDIUM DECISION ON KALUGA OBLAST SOVIETS NOTED

PM051101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 86 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. On the Work of Kaluga Oblast Soviets in Ensuring the Maintenance of Public Order and in the Struggle Against Violations of the Law"]

[Text] The resolution on this question adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium points out that Kaluga Oblast soviets, guided by USSR laws, are doing certain work in ensuring the maintenance of public order and in the struggle against violations of the law.

Comprehensive plans of measures to prevent violations of the law have been drawn up and are being implemented. In a number of organizations and enterprises discipline has strengthened and absenteeism has fallen. The number of grave crimes and also offenses committed in the street and in other public places has fallen somewhat.

At the same time, the oblast's soviets have not secured an improvement in the maintenance of public order everywhere. The activities of the organs of state power lack businesslike efficiency and sometimes even responsibility, and the effectiveness of the measures taken is poor. The work of the soviets, law-enforcement organs, public organizations, and labor collectives in preventing offenses still does not meet the requirements stemming from the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

The decisions adopted by soviet ispolkoms on questions of strengthening law and order are frequently purely formal in nature and are not backed up by proper organizational work and monitoring of their fulfillment. Deputies' inquiries and monitoring of the activities of law-enforcement organs subordinate to the soviets by the soviets' standing commissions are seldom used for these purposes. Extensive publicity in work is not ensured. The activities of state organs and the public in preventing offenses are poorly coordinated. There has been a reduction in the responsibility and accountability of leading cadres for the fulfillment of laws and for the state of discipline and educational work in enterprises, establishments, and organizations. [paragraph continues]

Many volunteer people's militia detachments, public centers for the maintenance of order, comrades' courts, commissions to combat drunkenness, and other public formations are not working actively to prevent offenses.

Labor collectives make inadequate use of their powers to strengthen discipline, and do not take appropriate measures to foster in the collective's members implacability toward drunkenness, hooliganism, and other antisocial phenomena.

The level of crime in the oblast is falling only slowly. There is a lot of embezzlement of socialist property, theft of citizens' private property, and hooliganism.

A comprehensive approach to the struggle against drunkenness is not ensured in a number of the oblast's cities and rayons. The work being done frequently amounts just to the use of disciplinary, administrative, and criminal law measures.

There is still no breakthrough in such an important a sector as the struggle against offenses by minors. The number of crimes committed by juveniles has hardly fallen in recent years. The necessary cooperation among state organs, educational institutions, labor collectives, and trade union and Komsomol organizations does not exist in work on preventing offenses among young people. The role of minors' affairs commissions and the responsibility of parents for their children's education are being enhanced poorly. Insufficient use is made of the potential of cultural and sports establishments in organizing young people's leisure and developing technical creativity circles and special-interest clubs.

Soviet ispolkoms, supervisory commissions, internal affairs organs, and economic leaders are not taking proper measures to ensure that persons released from places of imprisonment are found somewhere to work and live or to assign them to labor collectives.

Instances of a tardy response to reports of crimes committed and of keeping crimes off the record have not been eradicated. Some crimes go undetected.

Inadequate work is being done on the population's legal education. There are violations of citizens' labor, housing, and other rights.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium indicated to Kaluga Oblast's soviets and their ispolkoms the need to take urgent measures to eliminate the noted shortcomings and step up monitoring of the fulfillment of laws. In organizing work on implementing the 27th CPSU Congress guidelines on constantly strengthening the legal basis of state and public life and the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On Further Strengthening Socialist Legality and Law and Order and Increasing Protection of Citizens' Rights and Legitimate Interests," it is necessary to proceed from the premise that the soviets bear full responsibility for the state of legality and law and order on their own territory. They must constantly keep their eye on these issues and direct and coordinate the efforts of law-enforcement organs and the entire public to ensure the maintenance of public order.

Special attention must be paid to the state of educational work in labor collectives, and the responsibility of leaders for the strengthening of discipline, the strictest observance of the laws, the eradication of figure padding and deception, and the safekeeping of socialist property must be enhanced.

Work on citizens' legal education and on fostering in them a profound understanding of the unity of rights, duties and respect for Soviet laws and the rules of socialist communal life must be persistently improved; to this end active use must be made of the mass media, the role of cultural and public education establishments must be enhanced, instances of drunkenness must be resolutely eradicated, and a healthy way of life must be asserted.

The USSR Prosecutor's Office, the USSR MVD, and the USSR Ministry of Justice are instructed to strengthen leadership of the activities of subordinate organs, expose and eliminate in good time serious shortcomings in their work, and give real assistance in reorganizing it, particularly in crime detection. Greater exactingness must be shown toward cadres for the irreproachable execution of their official duty and the protection of citizens' rights and legitimate interests in every possible way.

In the light of the party's demands on further strengthening socialist legality and law and order, and strengthening protection of citizens' rights, and taking this resolution into account, union and autonomous republic Supreme Soviet Presidiums are recommended to take measures to enhance the soviets' role and responsibility in ensuring the maintenance of public order and in the struggle against violations of the law.

Efforts are to be made to ensure that every soviet and its organs take attentive note of and react promptly to citizens' statements and press reports of violations of Soviet laws, and regularly inform labor collectives and the population about the work being done. Concern must be shown for giving the population legal aid.

FURTHER ON BIRYUKOVA'S TOUR OF BELORUSSIA

PM031451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Improving the People's Well-being"]

[Text] A.P. Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was in Belorussia on 25-29 December. She familiarized herself with the republic party organization's activity in fulfilling the task set by the 27th CPSU Congress -- to fill the market with a varied range of goods and services.

A.P. Biryukova visited the "Termoplast" Plant, a worsted goods combine, and the N.K. Krupskaya Sewn Goods Production Association in Minsk, an experimental footwear factory and a silk textile production association in Mogilev, the Orsha Linen Combine, and other enterprises, and visited the republic's Knitted Goods Fashion House and the Belorussian Republic Fashion House.

During her conversations in labor collectives and with party, soviet, and economic leaders, paramount attention was devoted to the questions of Belorussian light industrial enterprises going over to full financial autonomy, self-financing, and self-sufficiency and introducing the state acceptance system. The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee emphasized that the new economic management conditions require cadres at all levels to restructure their work style and methods.

A.P. Biryukova noted the republic's definite success in increasing the production of commodities for the people and the range of services offered to the population by nonspecialized enterprises. Attention was drawn to the need to step up work to substantially improve the technical standard and consumer and aesthetic qualities of consumer goods.

Having familiarized herself with state and cooperative enterprises in the trade, public catering, and consumer services areas, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee stressed that party and soviet organs have to more actively introduce progressive forms of trade and outline specific measures ensuring radical changes in the services sphere over the next few years. A great deal of potential in this respect is being opened up by the development of cooperative forms and the Law on Individual Labor Activity.

A.P. Biryukova met with the republic's party activ in the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee.

A.P. Biryukova was accompanied on her visits to labor collectives by N.N. Slyunkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, L.F. Bobykin, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Light Industry and Consumer Goods Section, and K.Z. Terekh, USSR Trade Minister.

RSFSR RIVER NAVIGATION SAFETY RECORD CRITICIZED

PM311413 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] A routine session of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium has examined the question of the state of work with the cadres and ensuring navigation safety in the river fleet. It noted that a radical breakthrough had not yet materialized here. Concern to enhance the standard of work with cadres, labor and production discipline, and navigational safety had not been translated into everyday style or energetic practical action on the part of the leaders of the republic's Ministry of the River Fleet, steamship companies, enterprises, or organizations. Effective measures are not being taken against violaters of discipline and serious shortcomings are occuring in the selection and placement of cadres.

Telling cases were cited during discussion. Annual losses as a result of absenteeism and other violations in the sector amount to more than 70,000 man-days. Many disciplinary offenses are committed by ship crews. This year alone hundreds of cases of fleet commanders being at work in a state of intoxication have been established, and more than 200 of them have been disqualified. Connivance at, and underestimation of, the situation have resulted in the accident rate remaining high. Compared with the previous year, it rose in the White Sea-Onega, West Siberia, and Yenisey Steamship Companies.

In most cases, the Presidium stressed, the accidents were caused by a negligent attitude on the part of certain administrators, specialists, and leaders to their official duties, a low level of skill, incompetence, absense of necessary supervision of the personnel's work, and reduced exactingness toward personnel for ensuring observance of safety rules. Checks carried out by the RSFSR's Prosecutor's Office and People's Control Committee in river steamship companies and river basin administrations for waterways and canals show that the campaign for accident-free navigation has slackened off. Accident investigations are quite often of a poor standard and do not reveal the causes and attendant conditions. Cases of an indulgent attitude being shown toward breaches of navigational safety rules are not receiving a principled assessment. The republic Council of Ministers Presidium demanded that Comrade Bagrov, RSFSR minister of the river fleet, and his ministry colleagues raise the standard of work with cadres and improve the style and methods of management of enterprises under their jurisdiction and increase the accountability of leaders of steamship companies, industrial and operating enterprises, navigational inspectorate bodies, and ship captains for their assignments, the state of discipline, and navigational safety.

The session analyzed the role of the RSFSR Pedagogical Society in implementing the reform of general educational and vocational schools and propagandizing advanced teaching experience and also examined other questions.

VOROTNIKOV ADDRESSES RSFSR ART PRIZEWINNERS 26 DEC

LD261909 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] State prizes of the Russian Federation in the field of literature, art and architecture were awarded today to prizewinners of 1986, in the RSFSR House of Soviets in Moscow. During the presentation of the awards, Comrade Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, made a speech. He cordially congratulated the prizewinners on the occasion of being presented with the high awards, and wished them new creative accomplishments. The masters of culture who were awarded prizes expressed warm thanks for the high appraisal of their work, and avowed that they would apply all their energy and talent to the creation of works which correspond to the requirements of the times. [passage omitted]

SOLOVYEV ADDRESSES NEWSMEN ON PARTY SUPPORT

PM051029 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 86 p 1

[LENTASS report: "Meeting With Journalists"]

[Text] The press, television, and radio are the party's reliable helpers in implementing its social and economic policy and peace-loving foreign policy and in Soviet people's communist education. The news media's growing role was stressed at the 27th CPSU Congress. "The party will continue to give the press, and all news and propaganda media," the CPSU Program noted," active support and assistance."

On 17 December a meeting took place in the Journalists' House between Yu.F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad party Obkom, and leaders of the USSR Journalists' Union Leningrad branch, our city and oblast news media, and central newspaper correspondents.

Yu.F. Solovyev stressed that the meeting is taking place at an exceptionally important and crucial time: The first year of the 5-year plan is coming to an end -- the year of the 27th CPSU Congress, which was a crucial landmark in implementing the large-scale acceleration strategy. A breakthrough has emerged in the main directions of economic activity. A reliable foundation has been laid for a further increase in the pace at which the region's economy is switched to the lines of intensification.

The results achieved are the outcome of intensive work by party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations. The positive changes are closely linked with the deepening of democratization processes, the intensification of publicity, criticism and self-criticism, and the activation of the human factor.

The economy remains the most important sphere for the application of creative energy and is a zone of heightened attention for the news media. Each person's education in the new economic thinking -- from the worker to the minister -- requires journalists to improve their work in such a way that they are constantly in the vanguard of restructuring and in the epicenter of complex social phenomena.

The range of socioeconomic problems which must be at the center of press attention is extensive. There is the acceleration of the reconstruction and retooling of enterprises, the new economic management conditions, progress in fulfilling the 5-year plan's capital construction program, and the development and improvement of trade, consumer services and health care. There must be no superficial, boring material. Once a study of a problem has been begun, it must be carried through to completion, otherwise the media's prestige will suffer.

Restructuring has prompted a powerful wave of critical articles, on which effective measures are being taken. At the same time it is imporant not to replace criticism by carping, and to support and widely publicize the positive changes. Such items, coupled with verified, principled critical articles, are called upon to create the businesslike and creative mood necessary to solve the tasks facing us.

Speaking at the party Central Committee June (1986) Plenum, CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev stressed: "The news media's objectivity, high exactingness, and responsibility are immutable principles of the party press guaranteeing their prestige." These principles are still sometimes broken. There are instances of facts being distorted because of inadequate checking at local level and biased presentation. Journalists must remember that the degree of people's trust and interest in the party newspaper to a considerable extent reflects their degree of trust and interest in general party policy.

At the meeting great attention was paid to question of improving the style of party leadership of the press, further developing democratic principles in the news media's work, and training qualified cadres.

Yu.F. Solovyev answered journalists' questions.

UZBEK OBKOM APPOINTS KARIMOV FIRST SECRETARY

LD271638 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 27 Dec 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A plenum of the Kashka Darya Obkom of the Uzbekistan Communist Party was held today to examine an organizational question. The plenum released Comrade Turapov from his duties as first secretary of the obkom due to a transfer to other work. Comrade Karimov, who had been working as deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republican State Planning Committee, was elected first secretary of the Kashka Darya Obkom. Taking part in the plenum was Comrade Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee.

AZERBAIJAN CP CC PLENUM APPOINTS NEW OFFICIALS

PM311437 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 14 Dec 86 p 1

["Information Report on the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Plenum" -- BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY headline]

[Text] A routine Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee plenum took place 13 December.

The plenum discussed the tasks of the republican party organization to intensify the struggle against unearned income in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

A report was delivered by K.M. Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee.

F.E. Musayev, first secretary of the Baku party gorkom, Z.S. Gadzhiyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan ASSR Council of Ministers, V.A. Bogoslovskiy, second secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Party Obkom, T.N. Rzayeva, operator of the "Kirovneft" Petroleum and Gas Extracting Administration, R.A. Bagarli, first secretary of the Kirovabad Party Gorkom, I.A. Ismalilov, the Azerbaijan SSR prosecutor, S.S. Dzhafarov, first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR People's Control Committee, S.K. Kasumova, milkmaid of the Khanlarskiy Rayon's Samed Vurgun Kolkhoz, L.Kh. Rasulova, chairman of the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Council, Yu.Ye. Shchedrin, Azerbaijan SSR minister of motor transport, and S.N. Alekperov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Komsomol Central Committee, spoke in the debate on the report.

V.A. Abolentsev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Section, spoke at the plenum.

Comrade K.M. Bagirov delivered some concluding remarks.

A resolution was adopted on the question discussed.

The plenum examined organizational questions.

The plenum relieved Ya.M. Kirsanov from his post as chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee General Section in connection with his retirement on a pension.

A.I. Kulikov was confirmed as the chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee General Section.

The plenum relieved M.A. Nazarov from his post as chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Trade and Consumer Services Section in connection with his appointment as administrator of affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers.

REASONS FOR BUREAUCRATIC 'PROHIBITIONS' EXPLORED

PM021330 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 3

[A. Vasinskiy article: "Who Permitted Prohibition. Polemical Thoughts on the Prohibition Complex"; capitalized passages within slantlines published in uppercase]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I want to touch on just one question. What was characteristic of the times before the restructuring? At that time much was /PROHIBITED/. It is even strange that much of what we are used to now simply did not exist in the recent past. Has life become more complex now that animation and multiplicity of voices reign? Yes, more complex. But also more interesting.

Of course, more interesting in a wider sense than just "something to read in the newspapers and to watch on television."

Life has become more interesting in the sense that, if there has not been a reduction in the number of problems in our life (in fact, they have increased), it is good that they -- these problems -- are real, actual, to the point, and not artificial, masquerading ones. It will be said: "Permission has been given to write about negative phenomena -- so people write. If permission has been given, does that also mean that permission could cease to be given?" But I believe that openness is a process which reproduces itself in the direction of more and more "possibles" and fewer and fewer "impossibles," or else it simply leads nowhere. And so, more in the direction of putting confidence in people and in public opinion -- the 27th congress gave clear instructions about this. We must learn to live under the conditions of democracy.

Prohibitions... There were times when a very great deal was prohibited. A rural inhabitant could not go to live in the city of his own volition. People could not transfer freely from one enterprise to another. You could not wear narrow pants. You could not wear wide pants. You could not wear long skirts. You could not wear short skirts. You could not listen to records, watch movies, or read stories that we listen to, watch, and read today with no harm. Rural inhabitants have long held passports rather than certificates -- are people worse off because of this? A person has long been able to wear what he finds necessary -- nothing terrible has happened. The philosophy of prohibitions (I do not mean sensible and necessary prohibitions in the spheres of technology, labor safety, ensuring order, or protecting state and military secrets, but unnecessary prohibitions not justified either by the interests of the cause or by common sense) -- and restrictions and the passion for prohibiting are still too persuasive for some people, and so must be debunked. "They have gotten out of hand... Everything is permitted." Whose are these voices? Are they always disinterested? For there lie feeding and grazing in the thickets of all kinds of "taboos" and "vetoes" a considerable number of residents, watchmen, controllers, do-gooders... The "no-men" have their own knights, people who have managed to prohibit architectural styles, literary genres, musical directions, and even... laws of nature (for a while, of course). As we know, even certain sciences, which they called "pseudosciences," were prohibited. Such a chronic disease... [passage omitted]

You get the impression that all prohibitions proceed from a presumption of misuse. If things are not prohibited, it is said, everyone will loot and pilfer. But court trials in Central Asia, Moscow, and Rostov attest that prohibitions do not stop those who have embarked on a criminal path. They stop those who want to do somthing and who could be of benefit but...think twice about it. And those who sometimes venture to manifest economic freedom for the good of the cause then pay dearly for their impulse, sometimes paying even with the loss of their personal freedom...

Just think of how many good things have /NOT/ been done because of prohibitions! How many strong hands have been forced into idleness, into impotence... How many needed intitiatives have not been taken. Of course, such statistics do not exist, but you can very well imagine a kind of shadowy economy of what has /NOT/ been done, /NOT/ produced, /NOT/ realized -- houses not built, equipment not produced, inventions not introduced, schemes not realized... Hypothetical funds of shadowy assets...

More trust in people, more kindness -- this is what is needed. Why do I mention this? There is a category of readers known by all journalists who write court sketches or articles on moral themes. It is the category of readers who never like the courts' verdicts or the journalists' conclusions. The verdicts are "criminally soft," and the conclusions "drivelingly liberal." With uncommon ease they demand that 5 years' imprisonment be replaced by 15 years, 15 years by the death penalty, and so forth. They always demand "blood" and suspect people of "spinelessness," "rotten all-permissiveness," and so forth. [paragraph continues]

They prohibit gentleness, mercy... (Prohibit again!) If you ask them, they explain their position by saying that this is for educational purposes, "to teach others a lesson." Whenever I hear this "teach them a lesson," I recall a Londoner's testimony at the beginning of the last century: Local thieves were very fond of public executions of thieves, since in the crowded square it was very easy to pick the pockets of the people gathered near the execution site. [passage omitted]

I have been told about someone who tried to acquire a house in the countryside. Someone else wanted to make pants under contract. And it turned out that this was set about with such complexities, conditions, and restrictions that it was impossible to get around them...without committing violations. But, as is known, violations have to be paid for. And it turns out that unnecessry prohibitions supposedly directed against violations themselves provoke violations. They provoke bribery, resort to payment in kind, demagoguery, and so forth. And "impossible" for all is frequently a "possible" to some people... As I have already said, those with an interest in prohibitions are those who serve these prohibitions and pettifoggery. Every prohibition abolished and every paragraph repealed presupposes the superfluity of those standing guard over that prohibition and paragraph. If you remove the prohibition (object), the guard will not be needed.

This is why bureaucrats do not like democracy: Prohibitions are their ecological niche. They live there.

The philosophy of prohibitions, frequently dressed up as the championing of morality and the safeguarding of foundations, is not so harmless or disinterested.

Why do some people prohibit things more readily than they permit them? Because the person who says /"YES"/ takes responsibility. Moreover, someone who gives permission must not only be responsible but also /WORK/, ensure the success of the enterprise, think, be concerned, and worry. And what happens to someone who says /"NO"/? Once he has said it, he immediately abjures responsibility and removes the problem. /"No"/ confers the right to do nothing. When /"No"/ has been said, nothing happens. But if someone has given permission, he has created a situation in which something can happen. A good thing or a misfire, a drama, abuse, or joy -- in short, life.

"No-men" intimidate people: "Imagine what would happen if..." But what will really happen if livestock units start to be given over to all who want a family contract? We know what will happen -- there will be more meat. "But have you thought about how much money that family will rake in? What will happen if so much money..." We know what will happen -- encouragement by useful example. This money has been earned, and people cannot be intimidated with money honestly earned... [passage omitted]

"No-men..." With what have they not intimidated us! There was a time when we backed down before them. And what happened? Was it good? Did it benefit society and all of us? No. The Food Program and our other plans will not be resolved by means of prohibition. And how the "no-men" have intimidated us with openness?! But it has come to light that openness, even bad publicity, also works for socialism. Everything that is also good for the individual -- trust, the opportunity to freely manifest the best within him -- works for socialism and for society.

ANSA CITES SAKHAROV INTERVIEW 31 DECEMBER

AU311249 Rome ANSA in English 1031 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 31 -- Soviet dissident physicist Andrey Sakharov praised what he said appeared as a new openness in Soviet society and discussed his plans for the future in an interview given to the Italian state radio and television network RAI, and broadcast Tuesday evening.

Speaking a week after he and his wife, Yelena Bonner, were allowed to return to Moscow at the end of nearly seven years of internal exile in the closed city of Gorkiy, Sakharov said that the climate of "greater openness and the publicizing of events, of increasingly greater frankness in the press and literary works" now experienced in the Soviet Union is "very important".

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who was silenced when he spoke out against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan seven years ago, said, "we have always hidden our negative aspects. If this trend" towards an open society "continues, if it is strengthened and not weakened, then the premises for the normal working of society will arise".

After reiterating his commitment to an "open society" and to the defense of "prisoners of conscience", Sakharov again spoke of the need for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. "But before withdrawal, what is wanted is a political dialogue among all the partisan resistance forces in Afghanistan", he added.

The scientist said he intends tor return to work "in the field of physics in elementary particles and in cosmology, which especially interests me. I also want to take part in discussions of the problem of the utilization of thermonuclear energy for peaceful purposes", said Sakharov.

The scientist is described as the Italian news agency ANSA. [as received] His wife said she was not feeling well and would like to return to Italy and the United States for medical checkups of her eyes and heart. Yelena Bonner has undergone eye surgery in Italy and heart surgery in the United States.

She said her plans were not yet formed and any travel would only be discussed "at the end of the winter".

COURT SENTENCES NAZI WAR CRIMINAL TO DEATH

LD261734 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kiev, 26 December (TASS) -- The trial of Grigoriy Shurub, a traitor of the homeland and Nazi war criminal, ended today in Chernigov (the Ukraine). A native of the Chernigov Oblast, at the beginning of January 1943 he went over to the side of the enemy, voluntarily joined a punitive battalion of the SS, the police administration and the SD, which had been set up by the fascists and took part personally in killings and torture of Soviet citizens.

This was proved at a trial which has been investigating the facts about Shurub's crimes step by step for more than 2 weeks. The places where mass shootings took place, the number of victims, the names and nicknames of the killers were indicated with absolute accuracy. Each fact has been confirmed by documents and by evidence of witnesses. Only incontestable evidence was taken into account.

The court established that Grigoriy Shurub began his bloody career by taking part in a punitive action against prisoners in the Yatsevo concentration camp situated 3 kilometers from Chernigov. On 21 February the inmates carried out a mass escape from the concentration camp. Brutal retribution was inflicted on those prisoners who remained in the camp -- more than 100 people were killed. Shurub took in the killing of no less than 10 of them.

The village of Yatsevo and part of the village of Bobrovitsa were destroyed because of help given to those who had escaped from the camp, and 625 of their inhabitants were shot and burned alive. In March and April 1943, Shurub took part in the destruction of the rayon center of Koryukovka and the villager of Klubovka and Kuvechicha. About 7,500 inhabitants were killed.

In the summer of 1943, as one of 46 traitors selected by (Kross), the commander of the SS battalion, Shurub was transferred to Austria. They guarded the concentration camp near the town of Linz, where citizens of the USSR and countries in central and Western Europe were held. Shurub and other guards beat the inmates with whips and rifle butts.

In France, Shurub guarded State Security facilities in Paris and Rouen and the prison in Cannes. He shot an inmate while escorting a train carrying prisoners to the Buchenwald concentration camp. A State Security employee provided Shurub with false documents indicating that he was a worker in Germany during the year 1943-45 and this helped him to conceal himself.

Shurub has been sentenced to the exceptional measure of punishment, death, for betrayal of the homeland and for his crimes.

STATE COMMITTEE SIGNS CINEMATOGRAPHER'S OBITUARY

LD311333 Moscow TASS in English 1309 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS -- Andrey Tarkovskiy, a prominent personality in cinematography, has died after a long and grave illness.

An obituary signed by the Union of Film Workers and the USSR State Committee for Cinematography says that his art had flourished on native soil.

Andrey Tarkovskiy's art is inseparable from the cinematography of the 1960s. His interest in the experience and lessons of history, in the roots of the national character, the theme of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, his tragic thoughts about the fate of the world and the future blended in his art with his striving for philosophical generalisations, a humanistic comprehension of life.

The last several years were a different period of crisis for Andrey Tarkovskiy -- he lived and worked away from his country, something that one thinks of with bitterness and regret, the obituary says. It was impossible to either accept this or to become reconciled with this. The early death did not give him a possibility to draw up a final summary of his life and creative endeavour but memory of Andrey Tarkovskiy is held dear by Soviet cinematography, by his pupils and comrades.

DEPUTY MINISTER EXPLAINS RAIL TRAFFIC HOLDUPS

PM031505 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[Interview with V.N. Butko, USSR deputy minister of railways, by A. Nikitin: "Abandoned Trains"; first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] PRAVDA has received telegrams from Magnitogorsk, Tula, Tyumen, and other cities: "We cannot dispatch freight. There are no cars..." Telephone calls to the editorial office also voice alarm: Cars are standing idle waiting to be unloaded. The schedules for many passenger and freight trains have been disrupted.

What is the matter? After all, triumphant reports had been heard only the other day: Railroad workers have fulfilled the annual shipments plan ahead of schedule. For the first time in the history of the steel highways they have transported 4 billion metric tons of national economic freight...

The editorial office asked V.N. Butko, deputy minister of railways, to comment on the alarming reports from the provinces:

[Butko] The sharp drop in temperature and the abundant snows and blizzards in a number of regions have disrupted the regular movement of the trains. A particularly grave situation has come about on the Donetsk and Southeast Railroads. Snow-clearing machines are working day and night. Tens of thousands of railroad workers and workers of industrial enterprises are employed on clearing switches, station tracks, and branch lines to enterprises and population centers. The situation is gradually being stabilized. However, the complexities have not yet been removed.

[Nikitin] But we do not live in the tropics, do we? Snowfalls and cold weather are nothing unusual in our country. Why have railroad workers not been ready for them? Whey have abandoned freight trains appeared?

[Butko] Many leaders of railroads, depots, and stations were in a hurry to report readiness for winter. But when it came, they found themselves unprepared and lost their heads. Those reports and assurances have cost us dearly. However, it is not just a question of disrupted train schedules. The unloading of cars has deteriorated in many places, regardless of the weather. Thus, on 28 December 15,600 cars whose unloading deadlines had passed were standing idle. Unloading is proceeding particularly badly on spur tracks to State Agro-Industrial Committee, ferrous metallurgy, and construction industry enterprises.

[Nikitin] What is the way out of this situation now?

[Butko] It is necessary to organize round-the-clock working in the loading and unloading zone and speed up the clearing of tracks so as to give the "green light" to all freight, and to petroleum products and fuel above all. But there is another chronic obstacle to the rapid turnround of cars. Only half the thermal electric power stations now have a device for unloading coal that has frozen into a solid mass. I believe the time has come to finally solve this question too with the help of power and industrial enterprises. On the ministry's orders special equipment has been sent to regions where there are snowdrifts from neighboring railroads, particularly from the Baltic republics. He will, of course, draw lessons from what has happened. Very serious lessons. For winter is only just beginning.

Minister Interviewed

LD032303 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Summary] An urgent investigation into the railway transport situation was held today at the Ministry of Railways. Our correspondent Vladimir Mikhaylenko reports:

[Mikhaylenko] The worked of the country's railways and the enterprises they serve was analyzed in detail by Lev Alekseyevich Voronin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and by the minister of the railways. The planned volume of transportation for the holiday period was not achieved as many enterprises undermined the freight loading plan. Nikolay Semenovich Konarev, minister of railways, was asked to comment on the situation.

[Begin recording] [Konarev] "The situation regarding trains is normal, apart from certain tension points, like the Donetskaya line, where there are still 16,000 people working to clear [not further detailed] supply lines and intermediate stations. The main line is clear. For the New Year period there was no problem facing passenger transport."

[Mikhaylenko] "But if we look at the shortcomings?"

[Konarev] "If we look at the shortcomings I would point out in particular the lack of any loading of freight as many enterprises were not working on 1 or 2 January, or even today. All railways reported that freight cars were left standing idle. The greatest losses through nondelivery of freight can be blamed on construction workers, (?around 1 million tonnes), forestry workers, the Ministry of Grain Products, and others. The coal industry in general fulfilled its plan. The heads of all ministries have been asked to take measure to improve loading. All the conditions for fulfilling and overfulfilling the plan do exist, and the railways are waiting for the produce stipulated for January."

[Mikhaylenko] "Tell me, were the losses over the last 3 days great?"

[Konarev] "Over the last 3 days nearly 4 million tonnes of freight were not loaded, while other freight cars remain unloaded, especially in Georgia, the Ukraine, the Urals -- notably Northern Tyumen -- and at the ports, particularly in the Far East, where 1,200 freight cars loaded with coal and wood for export await loading in Nakhodka and Vladivostok. In the last 2 days, practically 60,000 have not been unloaded. There is a great deal of work ahead." [end recording]

STATE ACCEPTANCE SERVICE IMPLEMENTED 1 JAN

LD041428 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Oleg Amelinyuk commentary]

[Text] [Announcer] The quality control service has been introduced at 1,500 enterprises in the country since the first working day of the year. Here is our commentary. At the microphone is Oleg Amelinyuk:

[Amelinyuk] Among the many experiments being conducted in the national economy, the State Acceptance Service is perhaps the most popular.

This is probably explained not so much by the increased attention given to it by the press, radio, and television as by the very essence of the innovation which affects the interests of millions of working people. Right at the start of the introduction of state acceptance, sceptics were saying: You can't leave the working class without wages; you'll have to accept and pay for all output, irrespective of its quality. Then there was the November conference in the CPSU Central Committee, at which this attitude toward the matter was called an exploitation of socialism. You can't have it better put or clearer than that.

Incidentally, is the extra-departmental quality control really so strict? The State Acceptance Service demands just one thing: that output should be produced in accordance with the requirements of the set standards, most of which were, as a matter of fact, established only a few years ago; so that the requirements they lay down cannot be called either new or unexpected.

Unfortunately, however, people at some mills and factories have got into the habit of not pulling production up to the level of these standards, but, on the contrary, of adjusting standards according to production possibilities. A persistent struggle has recently been taking place against this phenomenon. I would remind you that the introduction of the State Acceptance Service began to take shape last October in the control of 30 percent of production. In November and December, this level was raised to 70 percent [as heard], and now half of production is subject to extra-departmental quality control. From now on, the State Acceptance Service will control 70 percent of the output of motor vehicles and nearly half of the machinery and equipment for livestock and fodder production.

The activities of the State Acceptance Service promise to exert a considerable influence on improving the reliability of the consumer goods that we term technically complex. They are refrigerators, televisions, various radio receivers, motorcycles, and bicycles.

And so the State Acceptance Service, as well as the other new forms of management based on the financial autonomy, self-supporting and self-financing of associations and enterprises, has begun its labor vigil of the 5-year plan. The new methods, as is pointed out in today's PRAVDA editorial, will lead to a coincidence of the interests of each individual worker or collective and the state, and then one can look forward to a steep rise in the efficiency of our socialist production.

CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICY COMPARED WITH LENIN'S NEP

PM081603 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 48, 30 Nov 86 p 12

[Lev Voskresenskiy article: "Along the Road to the Socialist Market"; first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "How can the frequent mention of NEP [New Economic Policy] in Mr. Gorbachev's public speeches be explained? Why is this theme so topical in the USSR today? What is the analogy?" -- Michael Crowe, teacher, Norwich, Great Britain.

And so, why does General Secretary Gorbachev, when characterizing the essentially revolutionary changes of our time, sometimes use arguments formulated by Lenin back during the time of the new economic policy, or NEP, as it was known? Speaking in Krasnodar, Mikhail Gorbachev said: "We have to our credit a rich experience in the struggle for socialism, and we know, as has already happened, when at sharp turning points in history, people, even those committed to our cause, did not come at once to conceptualize the new conditions, the new tasks and the need for new approaches."

There have been quite a few sharp turning points. NEP was not the first, nor the last. Why, then, do those economic and social experiments which took place so long ago now excite the minds of our contemporaries?

Not Only a Replacement of the Surplus Appropriation System by Tax [subhead]

Let us remind the reader briefly of the facts. The system of state procurements and distribution of food -- grain, above all -- (the so-called surplus appropriation system), which operated during the Civil War and the period of so-called war communism, was abolished in spring 1921. In conditions when free trade was banned, the peasants were under obligation to deliver to the state everything left over (after leaving a strictly limited amount of grain for their own needs) at a price, also determined by the state, a price which, at the then galloping inflation, was absolutely not enough to refund the labour expenditures.

NEP signified the introduction of a fundamentally new order. A food tax was imposed (at first in kind, and then in cash), after paying which the peasant received the opportunity to sell his produce at supply-and-demand prices. In fact agriculture and, later on, the services industry and other economic sectors were transferred to the self-repayment system.

Therefore, NEP was not only the replacement of the surplus appropriation system with taxes, and not just the establishment of a correct commodity exchange between town and countryside. The new approach for dealing with the most-up-to-date socio-economic problems was revealed, first of all, in agriculture for the sole reason that it was the most important sector. And grain was so valued because it could not but be the product of primary significance in a country plagued by famine. However, this was followed with a whole series of innovations: complete legalization of trade; permission of private enterprise in industry and in the handicrafts, which have always been of tremendous importance in Russia, and in the services industry (under state control, naturally); allowing of concessions and leasing; the transfer of the state industry to the loss-and-profit accounting system and self-repayment; the replacement of "allowances" and of payment in kind with payments in cash, depending on the quality and quantity of the work done, etc. In short, it was a really new policy, rather than a measure taken for a single occasion, a policy dictated by the new approach to the realities in economic and political life.

We must stress that it was, so to speak, a very lively, mobile and flexible policy. At the Central Committee Plenary Meetings, at its 14th conference (April 1925) and 14th Congress (December 1925), the Party took (to put it in the jargon of that time) "to a firm line on the liquidation of the vestiges of war communism" both in economic relations and in the political field. A number of measures was proposed to stimulate the development of the peasants' farms, to draw them into cooperation, secure them a greater freedom of accumulation and provide an impulse for the growth of labour productivity and technical re-equipment. Naturally, all that was to be done as much as the small opportunity of the times made it possible.

Another thing: the development of NEP was accompanied by a fierce ideological struggle. It was necessary to mete out a rebuff to the demagogy of the "leftists".

NEP sowed confusion among the bureaucrats -- the economic management control apparatus, which had swollen to colossal dimensions (with the practical absence of the national economy as such, if we take into account that the state industry was not functioning in the early 20s), feared that the staffs would be reduced and that the administrators would be transferred to jobs and paid according to the results of the work done and the qualifications of the worker.

"Fine!" [subhead]

The national economy's production capability, which had been devastated by prolonged wars and -- in no lesser measure -- by the incompetent and voluntaristic exercises of the "left" extremists, who were trying to make everything -- down to the last needle and thread -- "state-controlled", was restored in a mere three-four years. Of course, there could not be, as yet, any talk about prosperity and plenty, but an immediate end was put to the famine which had embraced, in the pre-NEP period, vast and densely-populated regions in the country (especially along the Volga) and which claimed millions of human lives.

NEP made it possible, according to the most moderate estimates, to pull the country out of economic devastation, to overcome inflation, to restore normal price setting, to stabilize the monetary system, to build up a zero-deficit state budget (with the inevitable reduction of administrative posts) and an impressive "stock-pile" of financial and material opportunities for the subsequent industrialization and technical re-equipment of all the economic sectors. The country was alive. The people breathed freely.

Since it is hard for our contemporaries to feel, due to the long time that has passed, the stunning effect of such a result, let us turn to such an emotional document as Vladimir Mayakovskiy's long poem "Fine!", which he wrote in 1927. Here is a rendering of the poem in prose.

Winter of 1920:

-- The Poet goes to visit his beloved and takes to her a most precious, at the time, gift -- half-a-stick of dry firewood and two carrots.

-- The Poet dines on horsemeat. His sister comes and borrows some salt, for tomorrow is the New Year. With the pinchful of damp salt frozen to her fingers, she hurries off to her home, three kilometres away, afoot, for the transport in Moscow was not operating.

-- A Scientist ("irreplaceable"), bearing a note from Lunacharskiy, the People's Commissar (Minister), goes to the distributing centre (an institution that acted instead of a shop at war-communism times). The Commissar's note contains the directive -- supply sugar, fat, dry firewood and a winter topcoat to the "irreplaceable" one. However, the centre has none of those things available. The Scientist is offered to take a head-piece and a horse's leg. The Scientist, of course, is forced to take at least what is offered him.

The Poet says that all those are merely everyday routine happenings, and that he is not mentioning the real calamities, such as the famine in the Volga regions.

Spring of 1927:

-- Windows aglow, stand the shops, filled to the top with all kinds of wares. Flies are kept out. Cheese -- not a spot. Lamps strung about; "Prices Cut!"

-- The factories puff, there will be more chintz. My cooperative is getting operative!

-- A peasant goes to work at early dawn with the greatest of pleasure. He tills the land, writes verses.

About the writing of poems, that, of course, is poetic license, because in the time of NEP the majority of peasants were illiterate. But Mayakovskiy did correctly grasp the emotional state of the rural dwellers. If a peasant had been able to read what the poet had written, he would be bound to repeat after Mayakovskiy:

"Life is marvellous!" However, according to the reminiscences of eyewitnesses, such assessments could have also been given earlier -- in 1924-1925, nearly immediately after the introduction of the New Economic Policy.

From the Experience of the Past to the Practice of Our Time [subhead]

As I see it, NEP which had ultimately withered away by mid-30s did not exhaust its possibilities and did not complete, so to speak, its service life period. Science is still to sort out the reasons for this. The question of evaluating the rates of collectivization is far from settled and the i's haven't been dotted as yet. The "inside story" of the transfer from economic methods of management to administrative-directive methods has not yet been studied or revealed. The same as the economic, social and moral damage, inflicted by bureaucratic voluntarism, the over-centralization of management has not as yet been estimated and assessed.

Good-bye was said to NEP without undue laments, so to speak, Stalin said in 1929: "We'll throw it out to hell. Lenin said that our NEP has been introduced in earnest and for a long time. But he never said that NEP was forever." However, let's remind ourselves of Lenin's original timetable made by him in April 1921: "The concessions policy, if successful, will give us a few model... large enterprises.../AFTER A FEW DECADES/ [capitalized passage between slantlines here and below printed in italics] (my italics -- L.V.) these enterprises will revert to us in their entirety. The cooperative policy, if successful, will result in raising the small economy and in facilitating its transition, within an /INDEFINITE PERIOD,/ to large-scale production on the basis of voluntary association."

Yes, indeed, that which had been started in earnest and for a long time ended really at a dizzy pace, and no amount of visible "success" can justify such a vertigo.

Maybe it is for this reason that in the years after NEP a strange stereotype took shape in people's minds. Dwindling away in time, NEP has shrunk, so to speak, to the simplest of formulas: "replacement of surplus appropriation with tax". And infectious impressions, begotten by all sorts of thrillers and whodunits of recent items, became heaped up around them. And it so happens now that the liveliest associations which surface in the minds of our contemporaries when they hear the word NEP are visions of obese "NEPmen" (dealers, black marketeers and swindlers), criminal types, pop singers in flat-top straw hats and checkered jackets, and chic restaurants with cancan and Charleston. In short some kind of an eerie sight smacking of a "fleshpot", anarchy and permissibility, which came to replace the grim but selfless morality of war communism covered by the viel of romanticism.

But this is not so. It is not so at all! True -- at the time of NEP there were flat-top straw hats, Charleston, and a host of all sorts of places where one could quickly take a snack without waiting in a line, have a good dinner or a nice rest in the evening. There were also NEPmen, some of whom, probably, did manage to get obese. But NEP fed and warmed the country. And if certain people managed to grow fat in the process or to get poisoned by charcoal fumes sitting by the hearth, so to speak -- is that what's essential? Is that placing of the stress correct? When we come today to the dead bonfires of past events (far-off and near), we must brush the dust and ashes from them, everything accidental and chancy, and carefully seek the gold nuggets of priceless know-how that has become the sediment of history.

I'd like to refer to an item in the VOPROSY FILOSOFII magazine, published during the 27th CPSU Congress. Sergey Zalygin, who is well-nigh the first Soviet writer who turned to the NEP era as an interested and scrupulous researcher and sociologist, is asked a question: "Many people are beginning to discover for themselves the very existence of the problems, which were in the focus of the heated discussions at the time of NEP, now at the peak of economic transformations in the country and the quests for a new style of administration. Have all the ideas, proposals and initiatives of that time become 'obsolete'? Or could it be that we are simply manifesting a sorry wastefulness and negligence in relation to our own experience, which we obtained with such difficulty?"

"Yes, we are manifesting them!" says the writer. "Of course we are manifesting them. Very often we aspire towards making the least possible number of conclusions. Whereas all these things (and NEP especially!) cannot be covered by any single definition. I'm of the opinion, in general, that our NEP is a staggering experiment, the only one of its kind in all of world history. In any case, on such a scale."

No 1 Reserve [subhead]

Let us turn to the results of NEP, which we can and must use in our activities today.

As we believe, miracles are non-existent. And, if we take into account the extreme backwardness of the Soviet economy in the 20s (worn out equipment at industrial enterprises, manual labour in the countryside coupled with truly primitive implements and methods of farming and widespread illiteracy), then it is only reasonable to ask: how did so much progress happen so quickly? At what expense, in general, had such a stunning result been achieved and in such a short time?

NEP had, essentially, put into operation only one single reserve -- the initiative and spirit of enterprise of the people, both in town and countryside -- the desire to work on the land, which the Soviet power had put at the peasant's complete disposal, the feeling of being the master in one's own house, independence and complete responsibility for the results of one's own labour, i.e. all those things which today are called the human factor.

Elementary logic leads to only one practical conclusion -- if we add the human factor to the present-day possibilities of the USSR economy (whose research and technological capabilities are simply incomparable to those that our country disposed of at the time of NEP), then how enormous the real pay-off could be!

Such reasoning has shaped the formula for the new model of acceleration of the country's socio-economic progress, proposed at the April 1985 CPSU Central Committee Plenary Meeting, and later on substantiated and finalized in the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress /SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, PLUS A LOSS-AND-PROFIT ACCOUNTING SYSTEM./ [capitalized passage between slantlines printed in upper case] In the understanding of today, the loss-and-profit accounting system, i.e., self-repayment and self-financing, the stake on the economic independence of enterprises and associations, and the collective and individual contractual method -- all those are exactly the things that will put the human factor into operation at full stream. And if under the human factor we understand not the all-round promotion of initiative and enterprise, not the use of all the resources of the individual for the benefit of the cause, but something else, which may be indefinably lofty, then the fashionable word is not worth a red cent.

It has to be stated at the Congress that the accent on the directive-giving methods of economic management, regimentation, the underestimation of the effectiveness of the entire realm of commodity-monetary relations and material stimulation have not only slowed the country's development, but also led to stagnation, to put it mildly. The need was recognized to think out anew and to implement the possibilities of the /SOCIALIST MARKET/. [capitalized passage between slantlines here and below printed in boldface] It goes without saying that the limits to which the market features (cost, price and financial-credit factors) can affect the economy are determined by the key positions occupied by the state in production and in the distribution system.

The long years have taught us a lot. They taught us, for example, that the goodwill of an administrator, who holds all the levers of influencing the economy, is far from being the most reliable thing. Even if he is as wise as Solomon, as they say. Today's let's say it is possible, responding to a good order, to send to Moscow trainloads of peppers from Moldavia, or grapes from Azerbaijan. And what will happen tomorrow, if there isn't a good order all of a sudden? And, after all, Moscow and Leningrad are not the only cities in our country. Wouldn't the people in Krivoy Rog, Totma or Vasilsursk like to sample the fruit and vegetables we lavishly receive in autumn? And the excessive concentration of authority on issuing economic directives and responsibility opens the way for abuses and corruption. The possibility of abuse is more dangerous than a practical case of abuse because the latter can be determined in size and be punished, but the possibility of abuse is both illimitable and unpunishable. That is why we speak today about the socialist market, about the priority utilization of the entire tool of commodity-monetary relations which will make it possible to build up a rational economic mechanism, operating, so to speak, automatically. It will be a /MECHANISM,/ independent of personal good- or ill-will; independent of individual whims of any of the millions of people who, acting by themselves, guarantee (by their initiative and their own responsibility) the uniform rhythm of its operation. Therein, probably, lies the essence of the main economic reform.

The psychological and political climate in the country is conducive for holding the reform. The lights are green. It is time to take the foot off the brake and shift into high gear.

ROVNO AES POWER UNIT READY FOR STARTUP

PM281719 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by special correspondent V. Vukovich: "Ready for the Command To Start Up"]

[Excerpts] The third power unit is ready to start up at the Rovno AES.

The "Leningradskiy Metallicheskiy Zavod" and "Elektrosila" associations made a 1-million-kilowatt turbogenerator with improved technical parameters for the new unit. [passage omitted]

Special attention has been paid to work quality. In accordance with the established procedure, representatives of the State Committee for Safety in the Nuclear Power Industry gave authorization for the startup procedure only after it had been established that all the technical norms and demands had been observed during the preparatory work.

Power transmission lines had to be set up to carry the energy from the new unit at the Rovno AES to its many consumers. One high-voltage line goes to the cities of Kovel and Novovolynsk.

A second, 262-km and 750-kilovolt line will link Kuznetsovsk to the West Ukrainian substation, which is part of the CEMA countries' International Energy System. The last pylon has been erected on the route and the suspension of the cables is nearly finished.

ASTRAKHAN GAS WORKS LINE MADE OPERATIONAL

LD042141 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by Ye. Fateyev, identified by screen caption]

[Summary] The first production line of the gas refinery works at the Astrakhan gas complex was made operational today. Throughout the entire past year, the refinery was one of the most important projects due for commissioning. The first output: Gas condensate and sulphur was obtained here several hours ago. For the time being, the economy experiences a sulphur deficit and it is the Astrakhan complex which is to make good this deficit. Billions of cubic meters of gas, millions of tonnes of petrol, diesel fuel and other petroleum industry products will also be produced here ever year.

The development of the Astrakhan deposit has been unlike any other, as far as its complexity is concerned. The unparalleled content -- up to 26 percent -- of chemically aggressive hydrogen sulfide, the enormous formation pressure, amounting to approximately 630 atmospheres, the necessity of drilling super-deep boreholes 4 and more kilometers long -- all this required a qualitativcly new approach to technological and environment protection issues alike.

The whole complex of the first stage is to be handed over for use by the end of the first quarter, so that it may reach its rated capacity during the course of the year. [video shows refinery and heavy vehicles]

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR 25-31 DEC NOTED

LD010130 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 25-31 December. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

25 December -- No fileworthy reports monitored.

26 December -- The State Committee for Agricultural Production of the Republic of Georgia has reported on the fulfillment or overfulfillment of the plan for all types of produce. More than 140,000 tonnes of grain; almost 560,000 tonnes of tea leaves; over 450,000 tonnes of fruit; and 240,000 tonnes of citrus fruit have been sold to the state. (1200)

27-28 December -- No fileworthy reports monitored.

29 December -- Winter plowing is under way on virgin lands in Kazakhstan. (1200)

Snow retention is under way in northern Kazakhstan. All in all, 28 million hectares are to be covered in the republic to ensure a sufficient supply of moisture for the spring sowing. One million hectares have so far been treated. (1330)

30-31 December -- No fileworthy reports monitored.

SARATOV OBLAST IRRIGATION WORK CRITICIZED

LD231440 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] The USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources Collegium today examined matters related to the further intensification of the use of improved land. The area of irrigated and drained tracts of land exceeds 35 million hectares, and accounts for more than one third of all plant-growing produce. However, because of major shortcomings and negligence in the use of such land, the harvest does not correspond to the real, great possibilities of reclaimed land. One shortcoming is the slow introduction of new technology, particularly in the sphere of irrigation automation.

Today's USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources Collegium session analyzed work on the introduction of automation to the Komsomol irrigation system, one of the largest land improvement projects in the Russian Federation, being conducted in Saratov Oblast. Its first stage is already feeding water to more than 40,000 hectares. However, because of the lack of automated control of sprinkler machines, the effectiveness of the irrigation system is much lower than planned. The collegium subjected the managers of the Saratov Oblast to water services, and the main directorate and other organizations to severe criticism for not fulfilling the plan for automating the first phase of the Komsomol irrigation system. The collegium detailed specific measures to speed up the work on this important land improvement project in the Volga valley. Comrade Polad-Zade, first deputy minister, has been entrusted with monitoring the implementation of this decision.

RYZHKOV DETAILS SPACE COOPERATION PROGRAM

LD050939 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS -- Follow replies given by Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to questions from a TASS correspondent:

Question: In June 1986 you sent a letter to the U.N. secretary-general on the issue of promoting international cooperation in preventing an arms race in outer space and in the peaceful exploration of space. The letter set forth a three-phase programme for joint practical action by states in studying and using outer space for peaceful purposes, which provided, in particular, for setting up a world space organization. What is the significance of this programme and what direct contribution the Soviet Union will be prepared to make to its realization?

Answer: Our programme is a call for cooperation, which is addressed to all countries without exception. It is underlined by the deep conviction that developing large-scale international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space is a constructive alternative to the ominous plans of extending the arms race to outer space. The salient features of our programme include its far-reaching goals, solid material nature and division in phases to be implemented by concrete deadlines, in other words, its realizability.

The programme aims to pool the efforts of as many countries as possible to advance the peaceful exploration of outer space. This should be done on a fair and equal basis, with account taken of the present level of development of space technology and prospects in this field as well as of the real needs of the countries involved in this cooperation.

It is this approach that marks the proposal, made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to India's Parliament, for establishing, with the help of the leading space powers, an international centre to perform joint research and develop space technology at requests from developing countries, which would be complete with a school to train specialists from these countries, including cosmonauts, and space launch facilities. We expect this proposal to be carefully studied by all interested countries. Its realization can be a landmark in laying the foundations of "star peace."

We attach much significance to the idea, put forward by the USSR in the United Nations, of founding a world space organization. This would help elevate international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space to a qualitatively new, higher level, having in mind the implementation, under the aegis of this organization, of major international projects in various fields of space science and applied cosmonautics.

Our country intends to take a most active part in fulfilling all phases of the suggested programme. In this connection I would like to draw special attention to the Soviet Union's declared readiness to exchange its achievements in outer space with all countries and to launch peaceful spacecraft of other countries and international organizations with the help of Soviet carrier rockets on mutually acceptable terms.

Question: What technical systems does the Soviet Union plan to use for such launches?

Answer: The Soviet Union has carriers of several types and so can orbit most different spacecraft. Experts single out rockets of the Proton class as the most promising in this respect. They have been extensively used in the USSR and proved themselves to be most reliable and versatile. The Protons have quite a service record, including, for example, the launches of Venera-, Mars- and Vega-type interplanetary probes, communications satellites in the Ekran, Raduga and Gorizont series, and the new Soviet orbiting station Mir.

We can also use other kinds of rockets for liftoff purposes, in particular the triple-stage Soyuz or the small single-stage vertikal which is fitted with a return equipment container. These carriers have also acquitted themselves well in our space programme.

Another possibility includes mounting foreign instruments on Soviet satellites and space stations. The space station Mir offers broad possibilities in this field. The new Soviet station, as is known, has, six docking ports. This means that it will soon be possible to link it up with up to five orbital modules, each weighing up to 21 tonnes. These will become a kind of specialized research laboratories or production shops in orbit.

Question: It is meant in this case that the Soviet Union will launch foreign spacecraft on commercial terms. In this connection it has been alleged abroad that the Soviet Union is seeking to take advantage of the known difficulties, which have arisen in the space programmes of Western countries, to further its own selfish ends, that is, simply speaking, to profit by these difficulties. It has even been asserted that the Soviet Union intends to use the launches of foreign spacecraft as a cover for prying into the secrets of Western technology and that a satellite brought into the USSR from abroad would cease to belong to its builders in general. What can you say on this score?

Answer: It is against our principles to cash in on others' errors and setbacks. Our proposal for launches of foreign spacecraft by Soviet carriers has been promoted by a desire to advance space exploration and use Soviet rockets and other space technology, which have repeatedly demonstrated their high standards and dependability, efficiently for these purposes.

As it enters the international market of space technology and services, the Soviet Union, of course, cannot but reckon with the laws of this market. It is only natural that we expect to make some gains. At the same time, we shall be seeking to make the launch terms to be mutually advantageous, both to us and to the clients. When orbiting spacecraft for developing countries, the Soviet Union is prepared to grant them substantial discounts. Soviet financial organizations can also insure the payloads.

As to the claims about our dependence on foreign technology, which are being made in a bid to justify the "embargo" on technology exports to the USSR, I can say with confidence that the ill-willers to this country clearly engage in wishful thinking in this respect. The world has been able to see on more than one occasion that Soviet scientists and designers can develop, and do develop, most advanced equipment which is at least on a par with the best foreign systems.

As I have already said, we shall, when launching foreign spacecraft, sign commercial contracts on the basis of mutual trust. I can declare officially that Soviet state agencies will give the clients the necessary guarantees of safety for their spacecraft throughout their stay in the territory of the USSR -- from the moment they cross the border till the boostoff.

We are prepared to exempt the equipment intended for a space launch from inspection by the customs and permit its passage across the territory of the USSR to the cosmodrone in a sealed container, if this is more convenient for the client. Foreign specialists will be able to escort their spacecraft and watch it being transported and installed on a carrier rocket. It goes without saying that representatives of the client will be allowed into the corresponding cosmodrome. In short, we proceed from the conviction that the client, who has signed a contract with us for the launch of his equipment by a Soviet carrier rocket, should suffer neither financially nor from the standpoint of keeping his technological and other secrets.

In conclusion I would like to stress once again that we stand for cooperation that woule be open and accessible to all, be free from any discrimination and bring palpable benefits to peoples. We stand for this cooperation to pave the way for mankind into the third millennium of peace and for the landmarks on this path to be represented by major joint projects connected with the peaceful uses of outer space and by outstanding discoveries made thanks to joint efforts by all countries.

'METEOR-2' METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE LAUNCHED

LD051118 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS -- Meteorological earth satellite "Meteor-2", the next in the series, has been launched into the Soviet Union today. The satellite has been put into an orbit with the following parametres:

Initial period of revolution -- 104 minutes;
Maximum distance from the earth's surface (in the apogee) -- 973 kilometres;
Minimum distance from the earth's surface (in the perigee) -- 950 kilometres;
Inclination of the orbit -- 82.5 degrees.

On board the satellite are installed complexes of equipment for obtaining global pictures of cloudiness and of the underlying surface in the visible and infrared ranges of the spectrum both in the memory storage mode and in the mode of direct transmission, as well as radiometric equipment for round the clock observation of the flows of penetrating radiations in near-earth space.

Apart from the scientific equipment, the satellite carries: a system ensuring the satellite's orientation towards the earth; an electric supply system with an autonomous orientation of solar batteries to the sun; radiotelemetric system for transmitting back to earth data about the operation of the satellite's service systems; a radio system for an accurate measurement of orbital parametres; a radio complex for transmitting scientific information back to earth.

The equipment installed on board the staellite is functioning normally. The command and measuring complex is in control of the satellite. Information from the satellite is coming to the State Centre for Research into Natural Resources and the USSR Hydrometeorological Centre of the State Hydrometeorological Committee for Use and Processing.

TV STATION COMMISSIONED IN KIRGHIZ MOUNTAINS

PM291907 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 23 Dec 86 p 4

[TASS report: "Receiving Moscow"]

[Text] Talas -- The call sign of Moscow Television Center has been heard for the first time in the homes of inhabitants of Kirghizia's Chatkal Valley high in the mountains.

A television retransmitter installed ahead of schedule by the republic's communications workers has begun operating there. Now all the population centers in the Chandalyshskiy Range are receiving television broadcasts.

BRIEFS

ANTARCTIC SEA OPERATIONS -- Sea operations linked to the 32d Soviet antarctic expedition are continuing. The Far Eastern diesel-electric vessel "Vasiliy Fedoseyev" has now arrived in the area in which it is to operate, the (Pryuts) bay, Commonwealth Sea. The ship will transfer supplies to the Soyuz seasonal station, carry out seismoacoustic and other research at sea, and organize a new field base, "Druzhnaya-4," on the eastern coast of Antarctica. The Baltic scientific research vessel "Professor Vize" and the Far Eastern diesel-electric vessel "Kapitan Kondratyev" are nearing Cape Norvegia on the 71st southern parallel. After meeting them, a large number of seamen, scientists, and airmen will look for a suitable spot on the coast of Queen Maude land on which to set up "Duzhnaya-3," a geological and geophysical station. The scientific research vessel "Professor Zubov" is sailing from Leningrad to the Antarctic, while, in the port of Nakhodka, the eighth and last of the expedition's ships the ice-class tanker "BAM," is preparing for the voyage; it belongs to the Maritime Shipping Company and will be making its fifth journey to the Antarctic. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 1 Jan 87 LD]

NEW MICROPROCESSOR DEVELOPED -- A microprocessor, which has been developed at the Novosibirsk academic township, can perform 2 million operations a second. The productivity of the new microprocessor is between two and three times greater than that of the products now being produced by industry. An important research stage has been carried out successfully in developing and experimentally checking the elements of a new generation of electronic computers. Scientists of Moscow, Tallinn, and Severodonetsk are involved with Siberian scientists in solving this problem. Specialists from various industries have shown interest in the new microprocessor, which has been developed during a large-scale research program. The Kama motor vehicle factory is one of the first to accept the microprocessor for introduction into use. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 4 Jan 87 LD]